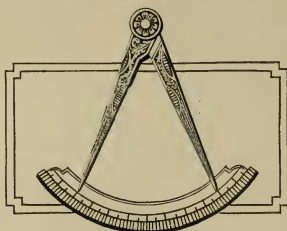


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PROCEEDINGS
OF THE
GRAND CHAPTER
OF
ROYAL ARCH MASONS
OF CANADA

AT THE THIRTY-NINTH ANNUAL CONVOCATION,



Held in the Masonic Hall, City of Toronto,

Wednesday, January 27th, A.D., 1897, A. I., 2427, A. L., 5897.

ORDERED TO BE READ IN ALL CHAPTERS AND PRESERVED.

ADDRESS:

M. WALSH, INGERSOLL,
Grand Z.

THOS. SARGANT, TORONTO,
Grand Scribe E.

Grand Chapter of Canada.

PROCEEDINGS

Thirty-ninth Annual Convocation of Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of Canada, held in the Masonic Hall, City of Toronto, on Wednesday, the 27th January, A. D., 1897, A. L., 2427.

PRESENT :

M. E. Comp. J. Ross Robertson....	Grand Z.	} Grand Council on The Throne.
R. E. Comp. M. Walsh.....	Grand H.	
R. E. Comp. W. G. Reid.....	Grand J.	
M. E. Comp. Thos. Sargant.....	Grand Scribe E.	
R. E. Comp. J. W. Burke.....	Grand Scribe N.	
R. E. Comp. Aubrey White.....	Grand Principal Sojourner.	
R. E. Comp. Hugh Murray.....	Grand Treasurer.	
R. E. Comp. P. T. Lee ...	Grand Registrar.	
V. E. Comp. Chas. A. Mathews....	Grand 1st Asst. Sojourner.	
R. E. Comp. E. T. Malone.....	as Grand 2nd Asst. Sojourner.	
R. E. Comp. J. B. Nixon.....	Grand Lecturer.	
E. Comp. J. Sinclair.....	as Grand Sword Bearer.	
E. Comp. W. Best.....	as Grand Master of 1st Veil.	
E. Comp. S. Dubber.....	as Grand Master of 2nd Veil.	
E. Comp. J. T. Lovell.....	as Grand Master of 3rd Veil.	
E. Comp. P. H. Cox.....	as Grand Master of 4th Veil.	
E. Comp. D. L. Carley.....	as Grand Standard Bearer.	
E. Comp. D. H. McIntosh....	as Grand Dir. of Ceremonies.	
E. Comp. R. Mann.....	as Grand Organist.	
E. Comp. F. Walters.....	as Grand Pursuivant.	
V. E. Comp. Wm. Anderson.....	Grand Steward.	
E. Comp. J. Huber.....	as Grand Steward.	
E. Comp. D. Robertson.....	as Grand Steward.	
V. E. Comp. A. G. Horwood....	as Grand Steward.	
Comp. J. H. Pritchard.....	Grand Janitor.	

GRAND SUPERINTENDENTS.

R. E. Comp. A. G. McWhinney, London,	London District No. 1	
R. E. Comp. R. Mahoney, Guelph,	Wellington	" " 4
R. E. Comp. T. M. Davis, Hamilton,	Hamilton	" " 5
Comp. H. F. Sharp, St. Marys,	Huron	" " 6
R. E. Comp. Wm. Simpson, Toronto,	Toronto	" " 8
R. E. Comp. Geo. Monkman, Barrie,	Georgian	" " 9
R. E. Comp. A. R. Hargraft, Cobourg,	Ontario	" " 10
R. E. Comp. Wm. Webster, Belleville,	Pr. Edward	" " 11
R. E. Comp. J. F. Graham, Prescott,	St Lawrence	" " 12
R. E. Comp. W. B. McArthur, Ottawa,	Ottawa	" " 13

GRAND REPRESENTATIVES.

R. E. Comp. W. B. McArthur, Ottawa,	Alabama.
R. E. Comp. A. Shaw, Kingston,	Connecticut.
R. E. Comp. G. J. Bennett, Toronto,	Iowa.
R. E. Comp. D. H. Martyn, Kincardine,	Indian Territory.
M. E. Comp. Thos. Sargant, Toronto,	Kentucky.
R. E. Comp. B. Allen, Toronto,	Maine.
R. E. Comp. S. A. Congdon, Dunnville,	Maryland.
M. E. Comp. John E. Harding, Stratford,	Massachusetts.
R. E. Comp. D. F. Macwatt, Barrie,	Missouri.
M. E. Comp. J. Ross Robertson, Toronto,	Nebraska.
M. E. Comp. J. J. Mason, Hamilton,	Nevada.
R. E. Comp. Jas. Wilson, Toronto,	North Carolina.
R. E. Comp. John Moodie, Hamilton.	Nova Scotia.
R. E. Comp. M. Walsh, Ingersoll,	Rhode Island.
R. E. Comp. Wm. Gibson, Beamsville,	Tennessee.
R. R. Comp. E. T. Malone, Toronto.	Texas.
R. E. Comp. Alex. Patterson, Toronto,	Virginia.
R. E. Comp. J. B. Nixon, Toronto,	Vermont.
R. E. Comp. Hugh Murray, Hamilton,	Washington.

A constitutional number of Chapters being represented by their qualified officers, the Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of Canada was opened in Ample Form at 2 p. m.

R. E. Comp. William Roaf, from the Committee on Credentials of Representatives, reported that there are 93 warranted Chapters and 3 U. D. on the roll of Grand Chapter, of which number 70 were represented by the following Companions:

- No. 1. *Ancient Frontenac and Cataraqui, Kingston.*
 R. E. Comp. A. Shaw, Ex. Comp. Geo. Somerville, P. Z.,
 E. Comp. W. T. Minnes, J.
- No. 2. *The Hiram, Hamilton.*
 R. E. Comp. T. Davis, E. Comp. R. Magness, Fred.
 Walter, P. Z's., E. Comp. Thos. Smith, Z.
- No. 3. *St. John's, London.*
 E. Comp. Alex. Findley, Z.
- No. 4. *St. Andrew and St. John, Toronto.*
 R. E. Comp. W. Simpson, Ex. Comps. John Erskine,
 Spencer Love, Jas. Glanville, V. E. Comp. C. A. Mat-
 thews, P. Z., E. Comp. John McCurrah, Z., J. W.
 Jones, H., R. W. Clewlo, J.
- No. 5. *St. George's, London.*
 R. Ex. Comp. L. W. Burke, A. G. McWhinney, P. Z.
 Ex. Comp. J. W. Butler, P. Z. and Proxy.

- No. 6. *St. John's, Hamilton.*
R. Ex. Comps. W. G. Reid, W. Birrell, M. Ex. Comp. J. J. Mason, R. Ex. Comps. John Moodie, Wm. Gibson, Ex. Comp. W. J. McAllister, T. McCallum, P. Z. and Proxy.
- No. 7. *Moir, Belleville.*
R. Ex. Comp. Wm. Webster, P. Z., E. Comp. W. McKeown, Z.
- No. 8. *King Solomon, Toronto.*
M. E. Comps. K. Tully, T. Sargant, J. Ross Robertson, R. E. Comp. J. B. Nixon, Alex. Patterson, G. C. Patterson, E. T. Malone, Ex. Comp. N. T. Lyon, John Akers, P. Z's., E. Comp. J. S. Lovell, Z., Malcolm Gibbs, P. H., W. A. Lyon, J.
- No. 15. *Wawanosh, Sarnia.*
Ex. Comp. R. Kerr, Z.
- No. 16. *Carleton, Ottawa.*
R. Ex. Comp. W. B. McArthur, P. Z. and Proxy.
- No. 18. *Oxford, Woodstock.*
Ex. Comp. H. A. Biggins, Z.
- No. 19. *Mount Moriah, St. Catharines.*
R. Ex. Comp. J. W. Coy, P. Z., Comp. H. J. Johnston, H.
- No. 22. *Grenville, Prescott.*
R. E. Comp. J. F. Graham, P. Z. and Proxy.
- No. 24. *Tecumseh, Stratford.*
M. E. Comp. J. E. Harding, Ex. Comp. Geo. Chrystal, Ex. Comp. Wm. McKellar, P. Z. and Proxy.
- No. 27. *Manitou, Collingwood.*
Ex. Comp. Geo. M. Aylesworth, Z.
- No. 28. *Pentalpha, Oshawa.*
Ex. Comp. R. E. Wood, P. Z. and Proxy.
- No. 29. *McCallum, Dunnville.*
R. Ex. Comp. L. A. Congdon, P. Z.
- No. 30. *Huron, Goderich.*
E. Comp. H. F. Sharp, P. Z. and Proxy.
- No. 31. *Prince Edward, Picton.*
Ex. Comp. G. M. Rose, Z., V. E. Comp. H. Wellbanks, P. Z.
- No. 32. *Waterloo, Galt.*
Ex. Comp. W. F. Mitchell, Z.
- No. 34. *Signet, Barrie.*
R. Ex. Comp. D. F. Macwatt, Geo. Monkman, P. Z.

- No. 35. *Keystone, Whitby.*
Ex. Comp. F. Mudge, P. Z. and Proxy.
- No. 36. *Corinthian, Peterborough.*
Ex. Comp. R. E. Wood, P. Z. and Proxy.
- No. 37. *Victoria, Port Hope.*
Ex. Comp. W. G. Coulter, Z.
- No. 40. *Guelph, Guelph.*
R. Ex. Comp. R. Mahony, Ex. Comp. W. Walson, P. Z.'s
Ex. Comp. R. Mahony, Jr., Z.
- No. 41. *Harris, Ingersoll.*
R. Ex. Comp. M. Walsh, P. Z., Ex. Comp. W. Bartlo,
J. P. Boles, H.
- No. 44. *Mount Sinai, Napanee.*
Ex. Comp. Stanley C. Warner, P. Z. and Proxy.
- No. 45. *Excelsior, Colborne.*
Ex. Comp. J. R. Fitzgerald, P. Z., Geo. Goslee, J.
- No. 46. *St. James, St. Marys.*
Ex. Comp. H. F. Sharp, P. Z. and Proxy.
- No. 48. *St. John's, Cobourg.*
R. Ex. Comps. R. J. Craig, A. Hargraft, P. Z's, Ex.
Comp. L. E. Horning, H.
- No. 50. *Saugeen, Mitchell.*
M. Ex. Comp. J. E. Harding, P. Z. and Proxy.
- No. 52. *Prince Rupert, Winnipeg.*
Ex. Comp. John Lesslie, P. Z. and Proxy.
- No. 53. *Bruce, Petrolia.*
Ex. Comp. Robt. Scott, John Sinclair, P. Z.
- No. 54. *Palestine, St. Thomas.*
Ex. Comp. S. Dubbur, P. Z.
- No. 59. *Sussex, Brockville.*
Ex. Comp. Maurice Brown, Z.
- No. 60. *Doric, Newmarket.*
R. Ex. Comp. P. T. Lee, P. Z.
- No. 62. *York, Eglington.*
M. Ex. Comp. T. Sargant, R. Ex. Comp. W. Roaf, Ex.
Comps. G. H. C. Brooke, D. Robertson, R. W. Hull.
John McCarter, Geo. Reeves, H. L. Smith, P. Z's.
- No. 63. *Havelock, Kincardine.*
R. Ex. Comp. D. H. Martyn, P. Z.
- No. 66. *Willson, Welland.*
R. Ex. Comp. I. P. Willson, P. Z. and Proxy.

- No. 65. *St. Paul's, Toronto.*
R. Ex. Comp. B. Allen, F. J. Manley, C. W. Postlewaith, Aubrey White, Fred Sparling, B. Saunders, A. D. Ponton, W. G. Eakins, Geo. F. Shepley, R. Donald, W. H. Best, D. Armour, P. Z.. John McKnight, Z., F. H. Harcourt, H.
- No. 70. *Grand River, Bracebridge.*
Ex. Comp. Isaac Huber, P. Z. and Proxy.
- No. 71. *Prince of Wales, Amherstburg.*
Ex. Comp. Thos. Hobley, P. Z.
- No. 72. *Keystone, Stirling.*
E. Comp. C. G. Wensley, P. Z.. J. E. Halliwell, J.
- No. 73. *Erie, Ridgeway.*
Ex. Comp. S. S. Willison, P. Z.
- No. 77. *Occident, Toronto.*
M. Ex. Comp. T. Sargent, R. Ex. Comp. J. Hetherington, J. W. Hickson, E. Comp. W. Riddle. A. G. Horwood, Jas. Wilson, P. Z's, Ex. Comp. J. J. Thompson, H.
- No. 79. *Orient, Toronto.*
M. Ex. T. Sargent, R. Ex. Comp. Ira Bates, P. Z's., Ex. Comp. G. B. Foster, Z.
- No. 80. *Ark, Windsor.*
Ex. Comp. D. L. Carley, P. Z., John Sale, Z.
- No. 81. *Aylmer, Aylmer.*
Ex. Comp. A. G. McWhinney P. Z. and Proxy.
- No. 83. *Ionic, Orangeville.*
M. E. Comp. T. Sargent, R. Ex. Comp. J. Wilson., V. E. Comp. R. Mann. P. Z's, E. M. Pike, H.
- No. 91. *Antiquity, Toronto.*
M. Ex. Comp. T. Sargent, R. Ex. Comps. G. J. Bennett, G. G. Rowe, W. Walker, Ex. Comp. M. Allan, J. O. Orr, P. Z's., Ex. Comps R. B. Orr, Z., J. C. Gray, J.
- No. 94. *Midland, Lindsay.*
V. Ex. Comp. John W. Wallace, P. Z. and Proxy.
- No. 95. *Tuscan, Sudbury.*
M. E. Comp. T. Sargent, P. Z. and Proxy, R. E. Comp. G. J. Bennett.
- No. 98. *Vancouver, Vancouver.*
M. Ex. Comp. T. Sargent, P. Z. and Proxy.
- No. 100. *St. Lawrence, Brockville.*
Ex. Comp. B. J. Saunders, P. Z.
- No. 102. *Algonquin, Sault Ste. Marie.*
Ex. Comp. C. F. Farrell, Z.

No. 103. *St. John's, North Bay.*

Ex. Comp. J. T. Lovell, P. Z. and Proxy.

No. 104. *White Oak, Oakville.*

Ex. Comp. Wm. Speers, W. A. Ferrah, P. Z., A. Helmer, Z.

No. 105. *Signet, Winnipeg.*

R. E. Comp. W. G. Reid, Proxy.

No. 106. *Alberta, Calgary.*

M. Ex. Comp. T. Sargent, Proxy.

No. 115. *Brant, Paris.*

Ex. Comp. P. H. Cox, P. Z.

No. 116. *Maple, Carleton Place.*

Ex. Comp. D. H. McIntosh, P. Z., Proxy.

No. 117. *Berlin, Berlin.*

Ex. Comp. A. S. Thornton, Z.

No. 119. *King Cyrus, Leamington.*

Ex. Comp. John Sale, Proxy.

Twenty-nine Chapters are not represented. No. of names registered, 139. No. of votes entitled to be cast, 285.

On motion of R. E. Comp. W. Roaf, seconded by R. E. Comp. D. H. Martyn, the report of the Committee on Credentials of Representatives was received and adopted.

The M. E. Grand Z. granted permission for the admission of all Royal Arch Masons in good standing, during the session of Grand Chapter as visitors.

The Grand Scribe E. read the rules and regulations for the government of Grand Chapter during business. The Grand Scribe E. commenced to read the minutes of the proceedings of the Thirty-eighth Annual Convocation, held in the City of Toronto, on the 16th day of July, A. D., 1895, A. I., 2425, when it was moved by R. E. Comp. M. Walsh, seconded by R. E. Comp. W. G. Reid, and

Resolved, That as the proceedings of the last Annual Convocation, held on the 16th day of July, 1895, have been printed, and copies thereof sent to all the Chapters under this jurisdiction, the recorded minutes be considered as read, and the same be now confirmed.

The M. Grand Z. then read the following

ADDRESS:

To the Most Excellent, the Grand Chapter of Canada—Greeting:

It is a satisfaction for me to know, in addressing you at this, the Thirty-ninth Annual Convocation of Grand Chapter, that the information afforded me by opportunities of personal inspection during my two terms of office, as well as through correspondence with those who are interested in the work, and also by the reports of the officials who have the supervision of the Chapters of the jurisdiction, that I am enabled to form clear and definite opinions as to the present condition of the Royal Craft—not only as regards the exemplification of its ritual, but also as an institution conducted on business principles.

The change from July to January in the holding of our Annual Convocation has prolonged my term of office from one year to eighteen months, so that neither I nor the officers under me can complain that ample opportunity has not been afforded for examination into every detail of work required by the constitution.

While the general outlook, as far as the degree work of the Chapters is concerned, is not unfavorable, yet, in many cases it does not inspire one with a hope that the improvement anticipated two years ago will be realised; for although the correct exemplification of the work has not deteriorated, in some Chapters more reliance is placed upon the ability of those who have passed out of office after faithful service, rather on those who, anxious for regalia, receive the honor and then display a mental incapacity, which if exhibited in business circles would materially decrease their chances of success. In some districts we encounter criticism because the work in some of the degrees has been, under the recent revision, abbreviated. While this is true, the criticism comes with ill grace from those who thus complain; for it is known that some of the objectors to the revision are noted for their spasmodic attendance, their utter indifference to the interests of the Chapter, and their absolute inability to do anything but find fault with the efforts of Companions, who, if not

doing much, are putting forth their best efforts to maintain the reputation and standing of the Chapters. The dry goods on their backs was perhaps the only visible evidence of worth, for their interior organization does not harmonize with their outside equipment.

These full-grown and ready-made Companions are not a blessing to either Lodge or Chapter. How they ever satisfied the ballot is one of the mysteries, for they passed the period of probation and entered the gateway of a Royal Craft in such a state of mental darkness that were it not for friendly hands, they would have been groping among the rubbish for a much longer period than the sojourner of the olden time. These Companions travel towards East by the aid of friends, as if their matriculation had been in an athletic club instead of a school where the mind is developed, satisfied that energy is the requisite for honored positions. They have more ambition than natural allotment permits, and an amount of assumption that superinduces the belief that what, if used with discretion, might be helpful for business purposes is not serviceable in the life of a Mason.

CEREMONIAL WORK.

The general opinion seems to be, and in it I share, that while the average exemplification of the work is about as good as last year, and much better than five years ago, yet, in a large percentage of the Chapters the work, while it passes muster, cannot be ranked as first-class work.

It does not become a presiding officer to be captious or hypercritical. In some cases such an effort might be regarded as straining after an effort to appear wise, when in reality the faults found are but the vaporings of an imagination that is common to vitalized mortality, as we find it in ordinary business life.

So, for that reason, I have been careful in arriving at conclusions, knowing that my criticism may invite investigation, and that an opinion delivered from this Grand East must obtain and necessarily have weight with Companions who have to be guided by the advice of those who govern.

It is my belief that to secure better exemplification of ritual there should be less change in the personnel of officers in the Chapters. It is important as well, that where possible, Companions should be selected, not exclusively for personal qualifications of an attractive character, but rather because they are Masons they have proved themselves worthy of advancement, and that they can be relied upon to carry out the obligation required for the office.

While our ritualistic work has not suffered to an appreciable extent, it is not unlike the green spots in the boundless desert, excellent here and very good there. It does not honestly compare in memorization and impressiveness with either the standard exemplification in the Craft degrees or with that of the work of those subsidiary degrees that flow like rivulets from the great Craft stream, down which we, with other Craftsmen, sail in our desire to reach the harbour which shelters the degrees of this Royal Craft.

We may seek the mysteries of the Royal Arch, and enter its realm with the sincerety of the ancestral sojourner; we may in our minds build castles furnished with an appropriateness worthy of and due to our calling; but something more is required before results can be attained. There must be actual work accomplished, for without it advancement in knowledge cannot be achieved. We may touch the button and light the lamps of morality, and we may talk of brotherly love; we may to all external appearance be as earnest as if our very heart and soul were bound up in the work; but if the sincerity be not active, real and continuous, supplemented by a personal desire to get there, we might as well try to make a success of Chapter work as endeavor to exchange a gold mine, rich in quartz, with a dividend in sight, for the inexhaustable mine of ideas which even geologists will admit has a vein in every township and a farm holding under the blue sky of heaven.

CONDITION OF THE CHAPTERS.

During the year I have visited the Chapters at Trenton, Carleton Place and Warkworth, making in all

eighty Chapters visited during my two terms of office. The Chapters in the extreme west, at the Sault, Sudbury, Rat Portage and Port Arthur I did not visit. It was impossible to secure meetings at a few of these places, and without visiting all it would have been an inspection void of interest or usefulness—to visit, for instance, Rat Portage, where the Chapter is so dormant, that it is beyond redemption. In the three Chapters visited the work was all above the average, and in each case the interest evinced was worthy of compliment for it was accompanied by excellent work at Warkworth and over average work at Carleton Place. The exemplification at Trenton might have been better. It would not have been as good but for the assistance of a Past Principal.

My experience in the eighty Chapters visited in two years and six months is that, while many of the Chapters have officers who are models in ability to memorize, they fail in that naturalness which makes work impressive. Indeed, in some Chapters where correct ritual does not cut any figure, the absence of the literal is made up by a grace in eloquence and a mastery of utterance that mislead all but those who have accurate knowledge of the verbiage and floor work.

From a business standpoint the situation may be described as one that may not be without hope for the future, and yet the indications for the past eighteen months are far from satisfactory. We are not progressing in numbers. We are hardly keeping up with the loss we sustain by resignation and suspension, and this loss affects the Chapters, not only in business, but also in a ritualistic sense.

In the former case we lose fees and dues. In the latter we miss Companions who for years labored in our vineyards.

There are not a few reasons for this thinning of our ranks. The general business depression that has prevailed for five years in this country has, without doubt, helped to lessen our membership. Small as is the amount of our annual dues, yet the request for payment is made a valid excuse for retirement from Chapters, although, perhaps, the cases where such is an

actual necessity are as few and as far between as the visits of many of these brethren to their own Chapters.

A few who look with favor on the Capitular work feel, perhaps, that the money required for fees would be better employed if expended in home comforts, while others find other exits for their cash more in keeping with present exigencies than future requirements.

We have, then, those who, if young in years, are not enchanted with the work, and either voluntarily withdraw or submit to suspension. And so the procession moves on.

We cannot turn the tide; we must wait and bide our time, confident that, if merit be the goal in Capitular work, we shall yet see our ranks filled with those who will be earnest workers in the cause.

While the general business depression is the principal factor that has affected our membership, there are other worthy causes which influence the situation.

This country is to-day covered with a net-work of beneficiary associations. All of these are doing a good work, each after its own plan, and on the insurance principle. It is a pertinent question whether these associations, some with capital in the millions, are not doing a good work which is contributory to the comfort of the widows and orphans not only of the particular associations referred to, but those of the Craft itself.

These associations offer at least good, if it is temporary, insurance, and at rates that are claimed to be on a paying basis.

This tempts men to invest. Many of those in our own ranks are investors. Many who would come into our ranks prefer the insurance schemes and so we suffer—at any rate until better times come. Who will deny that these men are not right? They invest for the protection of their homes and hearths, and, much as we may feel the result of this investment, we cannot fail to see that good judgment prevails.

Then, we have others who prefer the higher rites, and who, with the inborn instinct natural to humanity, hasten to the garden where degrees grow like the rose-buds of earth, and where a proportionate investment

brings an Eden of happiness to worthy brethren, who willingly exchange the fig-leaf apron of the original ark for the costly garments that can only be worn when one reaches the climax of perfection.

It is not for me to dictate to any brother as to the path he shall follow after he leaves the Craft roadway. Whichever way he goes, if he selects his route of his own free will and accord, our blessing should go with him. It is only when other hands direct and other influences prevail that an objection is valid from the lips of those who rule in this Grand East.

It would be absurd to deny that the higher degrees are not playing an important part in the Masonry of this continent. The ritual, as a literary production, is an example of the best thought in the purest English. It is dramatic and, therefore, impressive. It is rendered with an accuracy in diction and an impressiveness that commands the respect of its initiates.

Its obligations contain the stern realities of duty behind its symbols and teach a morality, as Masonry does, in a creed that underlies all religions.

Nothing has contributed more to the success of the higher rites than the fact that the Craft door has not been watched with care. The danger to Masonry is at the door. So it has been in the past. So it will be for all time to come.

The Craft cannot select from the multitude at large as can the higher rites from the Master Craftsmen, even if they have passed the probation of a private lodge or, for that matter, that of a Royal Arch Chapter. And so the selection is made; and even if the fee is higher, these rights gather in a membership that, it must be confessed, contains a very large proportion of those who are active and earnest Craftsmen, who are endowed with good reputations, and who move in spheres of civil life that must reflect honor on any institution to which they belong.

The family of Craft workers, whether their endeavor be in the work of the primal degrees or in other grades which are recognized by the sovereign bodies of the Craft, preserve a general alliance in friendly action,

and it is satisfaction to know that whatever minor frictions prevail in individual bodies, the efforts of those who guide the Craft in the different branches of its work is to preserve one harmonious whole, that shall represent in its entirety the principles on which the primal institution is founded. The best evidence of this is that in this jurisdiction harmony and good fellowship are the characteristics of the respective organizations that have in charge every sphere of Masonic work.

CHAPTERS OF INSTRUCTION AND INSPECTION OF THE WORK.

Eleven Chapters of Instruction were held during the past year, and, if the reports be a guide, they indicate that the work exemplified was creditable. It is just as well to note that, with few exceptions in past years, criticism is inclined to veer to the favorable side, and that there is a certain amount of diffidence in expressing opinions from a fear of giving offence.

In the Craft Grand Lodge during the past ten years the free and unbiased criticisms of D. D. G. M's has contributed to the success of the work, and there is no reason why this should not prevail in our Chapters. Some of the reports show care and diligence in securing material for the reports. Others are indifferent, and a few are so meagre and so worthless that, when deposited in the cemetery of Capitular history, it is to be hoped that in their case there will be no resurrection.

It is to be feared that in many cases where favorable criticism obtains in the reports of Grand Superintendents a material assistance in the exemplification was not given by present officers, but by those who matriculated in our work years ago, and who have kept up an active interest and are always on hand to fill a gap. What would we do without the faithful companion, who, in the work of every chair, is always ready to oblige?

In my visits to Chapters in 1895 I saw the exemplification of the work which would have been most unsatisfactory had it not been that three of the principal chairs were filled by past officers and their successors did not even put in an appearance, although it was well on in the Masonic year.

WHERE THE WORK IS PASSIVE.

It is nevertheless satisfactory to read the reports of the Grand Superintendents, and to know that the majority of Chapters in each district are well officered.

Nothing has contributed more to apathy in many parts of the jurisdiction than the absolute neglect of work in some Chapters. The inability of officers to attend to the duties of office is accountable for this loss in strength and vigor. Take, for instance, a Chapter like Shuniah, at Port Arthur, which held but eight meetings from January, 1895, until December, 1896, and of the eight, two in December of the latter year. This surely cannot be called attention to work. Surely the energy which is winning silver from her neighboring mines can restore Shuniah to prosperity. The Golden Rule at Rat Portage has not had three meetings in three years, and there is not even enough life in it for the Companions to meet and send in its warrant. Let us hope that the boom in that golden district may extend to the membership of Golden Chapter. Macpherson Chapter, at Meaford, is dead beyond revival. Niagara Chapter has life left to give it a name. For years past it has not had officers competent to do the work. It is not so long ago since the Chapter selected as Z. a Companion whose claims for office seemed to rest upon his absolute and conspicuous ignorance of the very alphabet of the ritual. Niagara Chapter seems to have lost heart. An infusion of new blood might rejuvenate this aged nurse of the Masonic institution in Canada. When we know that Mount Horeb, No. 20, at Brantford, and that Mattawa, No. 58, are not up to line, it has a depressing effect, and as for Grimsby, No. 60, it has not done work for years. It meets to make returns and then slumbers, yes, within sight of the home of our own Grand Master. Grimsby Chapter is in an old Craft centre, and had life and vigor a century ago. To-day it seems to be living only in the memory of its one-time glory.

THE WORK OF THE WEST.

Business engagements prevented my visiting the Provinces of Manitoba and British Columbia, but the reports of the Grand Superintendents are satisfactory.

In British Columbia so much of harmony prevails that it is not unlikely that in the near future the two Chapters under Scotland at Victoria and Nanaimo may be induced to join hands and work under this jurisdiction. Indeed, the suggestion is made that the establishment of more Chapters in British Columbia, and a few in Manitoba, might lead to the formation of a new jurisdiction composed of the united Provinces in the western part of our present jurisdiction. It seems to me that there might be more Chapter warrants in Manitoba. There is a fair amount of Craft work in that Province, and no reason why the Capitular system should not in like manner be extended. It is my intention, D. V., to visit these Provinces during the current year, so that at our next Convocation I may be able to report to my successor in this chair.

NON-PAYMENT OF DUES.

The army of unaffiliates keeps up its everlasting and endless march. We hear the "tramp, tramp" of these battalions as they pass our doors. They hurry on with measured step. With no one in command there is no one to order the salute, and yet as they shuffle along and death picks up one here and there the blank is quickly filled, for the rear man is ready to step up and take the place of the comrade that is gone. We make recruits at the one end, and our average is low because we cannot hold those who should be with us. Some can pay and won't pay. It is to be hoped that they are not as indifferent to their business obligations as to their Chapter work.

The business community has its opinion of men who can but won't pay their debts, and the Craft community has its opinion of men who can but won't pay their dues.

Is a man who can but won't pay his dues any better than the man who can but won't pay his debts?

The lessons of the Craft have indeed been wasted upon the man who can but won't pay his dues.

Debts and dues are synonymous terms. The man who can but won't pay the latter is apt to pursue the same course with regard to the former.

No one has solved the suspension question and discovered a specific that will be a sure and certain remedy for an evil that has menaced the Lodges, the Chapters, the Preceptories and other Masonic bodies from the day that the memory of man runneth not to the contrary.

In our case the question is serious. We have reduced our entrance fees, and while this action has improved the membership in many Chapters, yet the general average in receipts is against us. Our dues cannot be lowered. Chapters must live and expenses run on night and day. It seems to me that if this year were marked by any effort to induce Companions to return to the fold on payment of one year's dues, it might have a good effect. This could only be accomplished by active work on the part of Scribes E. of Chapters, for without the active co-operation of such officers all attempts in the line indicated would be fruitless.

THE DEFUNCT PASTMASTER.

In a previous address I directed your attention to the fact that one of our Chapters in Western Ontario had requested permission and was refused to continue the work of a degree, which had been erased from our system as superfluous, in order that its members might enjoy the opportunity of visiting Chapters in a sister jurisdiction which maintained it. In the long interval of eighteen months I have not, I am happy to say, either from that or any other source, been once questioned on the subject of the defunct Past Master's degree, a fair indication that its non-existence has in no way affected the smooth progress of the work, and demonstrating clearly that the unbroken continuity of the ceremonial system is established and that the Companions everywhere possess an intelligent understanding of the action of Grand Chapter in that respect and are satisfied with the result.

I do not now, nor did I in the past, anticipate any trouble or friction with our sister Grand Jurisdictions because we abolished a degree that they retained. To a visiting Companion from Canada who establishes his

status as a Royal Arch Mason enough can be communicated to enable the requirements to be complied with, just as we have done heretofore with Companions from the old land, who possessed neither of the degrees between the Mark and Royal Arch.

Moreover, there is no abiding affection for the degree with our Companions across the line. A perusal of the report on foreign correspondence will indicate that much. The General Grand Chapter has legislated it into the system, and right or wrong, the Grand Chapters of its obedience must retain it until the law declares otherwise. Inasmuch as Canada owns no superior, it was enabled to act without reference elsewhere, and that action would be endorsed and her example followed by many other jurisdictions were they free, as she is, to act for themselves.

OUR INVESTMENTS.

Grand Chapter directed that its moneys be invested in securities of undoubted character, such as municipal and county bonds, and with that object in view \$17,000 cash in the Canadian Bank of Commerce has been invested in Toronto Industrial School bonds, the principal and interest of which is guaranteed by the City of Toronto. These bonds will pay four per cent.

While the interest is one per cent. better than could be obtained at a chartered bank, the security is undoubted. There can be no fluctuation in the dividend. The ups and downs of commercial depression will not affect the security, and the sight of a receding dividend such as may be seen in the case of building and loan associations, will not present itself to the holders of such securities as those in which we have invested. Our action has been commended by the press and our example followed by one of the wealthiest Craft Lodges in the City of Toronto.

NEW CHAPTERS.

The question of extending the work is one that has given me considerable thought. Before arriving at a conclusion I have carefully gone over the ground, so that I may be enabled to speak with effect to my Companions.

My impression is that we have too many Chapters in small centres. A Chapter cannot thrive on the support of even one or two lodges, and as a consequence those established in centres where the Craft constituency is limited, is full of life for the first year or two, fairly prosperous in the second and third, and by the fourth or fifth year they find their occupation gone, the interest in the work swept away into the dust-pan of oblivion.

The Capitular map might be carefully re-surveyed, and by the withdrawal of Chapters from isolated and barren localities the work would be concentrated and an interest created that to-day does not exist.

Dispensations have been issued for new Chapters at Berlin and Leamington, Ont., and Edmonton, N.W.T. Berlin had a Chapter years ago, but from a number of causes it became dormant. A large number of Companions urged me to give them another opportunity to renew the work, and, although adverse to issuing dispensations in locations where the field is limited, I did it in this case on the strength of the promises made, which so far have been carried out. The Chapter at Leamington may not be a success. Time will answer. Amherstburg is the nearest Chapter. Windsor does the best work. So to serve the Companions in the south-western part of the jurisdiction I issued the dispensation.

The Chapter at Edmonton, although served only by one lodge, occupies a different position to those in well settled locations. Again, Manitoba has many claims upon the Grand Chapter for every possible encouragement in the extension of the work. The day must come when, as the general population increases, Masonic want must be filled, so that the seed sown by this new Chapter may spring up and ripen and in its turn contribute to new fields of labor in the prairie lands in the North West.

DORMANT CHAPTERS.

It must be patent to everyone who has given the matter thought, that there are a dozen Chapters that should be removed from present locations.

The work has not been within sight of the standard

for years, and the field for material is simply exhausted. No. 71, at Amherstburg has not been progressing for years; since 1890 it has added five to its roll. Exeter, No. 80, is another Chapter that has a continual struggle for life—no field—no material. Grimsby, No. 69, although the seat of a Mark Lodge a hundred years ago, has fallen from grace. It hardly ever meets. No interest is taken in the work, and there is no material. The Chapters at Hamilton and St. Catharines are in too close proximity and are well worked. Niagara, No. 55, another old Craft centre, is a Chapter that can never prosper. There is but one Lodge to draw from, and but one or two Companions competent to exemplify the work.

A strong feeling exists in the Niagara District that Mount Nebo, No. 76 should be removed from Niagara Falls South to Niagara Falls (Clifton). It seems to me that it would tend to improve the Chapter. Clifton has a good Craft Lodge with better prospects than the lodge at Niagara Falls South. The opinion seems to prevail that the Craft centre should possess the Chapter. It is claimed that the membership would sooner go from Niagara Falls South to Niagara Falls than *vice versa*. I share the opinion that a change should be carefully considered.

Doric Chapter, No. 60, at Newmarket, has contemplated the surrender of its warrant. There was good reason for this action. It is unfair that the work of keeping a membership together and its work up to date should depend upon one faithful Companion whose efforts have but feebly been seconded. Macpherson, No. 86, at Meaford, should have had its warrant withdrawn years ago. It is not a very graceful tribute to a past Grand Z. that the Chapter which bears his name should so neglect its work and not hold an average of one meeting a year since 1891. Golden, No. 90, at Rat Portage, is dying of inanimation and pure neglect—no life—no interest. York Chapter, No. 52, at Eglinton, suffers by its proximity to city Chapters. It is difficult to secure attendance, and the interest that existed in this once promising Chapter is rapidly vanishing. Shuniah, No. 82, at Port Arthur, is another Chapter that seems

to have lost heart. Companions accept office whose business calls prevent them from fulfilling the duties of office—and the dormant period sets in, to end probably with extinction. Only five meetings were held in 1895, and two in 1896. Keystone, No. 99, at Portage la Prairie, has surrendered its warrant, and none too soon, it was the only weak Chapter in Manitoba.

PROGRESSIVE CHAPTERS.

While it is regretful to refer to Chapters that are almost dormant, it is gratifying to know that out of the 96 Chapters on the roll, 50 may be selected as doing good work, 20 with work that is not up to the average of even fair work, while about sixteen are, as far as work is concerned, not in the running for even a place.

It is unsatisfactory to differ from the reports of Grand Superintendents, and to express views that are not consistent with their reports. But one might as well stand on the vantage ground of truth if only for the occasion. Truth is said to be stranger than fiction; but in this case its telling may remind some Superintendents that the unwelcome words uttered might appear to better advantage in the reports of supervision rather than in the annual address of the presiding officer.

THE REDUCTION IN OUR FEES.

It will require another year of experience to test the efficiency of the reduction of the minimum fee. Some prominent Companions entertain the opinion that the results of our action at Grand Chapter two years ago are not satisfactory. This may be in part true. The environment of both Lodges and Chapters varies according to location, so that in some places the reduction has improved membership, while in other parts of the jurisdiction no marked results have followed. For myself, I have still the opinion that the reduction was a move in the right direction. It is not the fee that keeps Craftsmen from our Chapters. It is the knowledge that the exemplification of work is not what it should be and the fact that those who are known as adherents of the Chapter are not enthusiastic in the work. There is always a personal magnetism in men, whether they be brethren or Companions, and if they are interested in

Craft or Capitular work this magnetism has its effect. It attracts members and success follows.

CENTENNIAL OF THE ROYAL ARCH IN ONTARIO.

On the 7th June, 1897, the index finger of time will point to that date as the day on which Companions for the first time in this Province gathered in the new City of Kingston around the Sacred Word in a Royal Arch Chapter. This was the beginning of our work. We have shown in this century of endeavor that we are not a germ of nothing, that our work was born with us, and that springing from youth to manhood, we can look back on a record that will compare, at least not unfavorably, with that achieved by other jurisdictions in the great field of Capitular labor.

The Companions of Toronto contemplate a celebration of this important anniversary, and that a general aspect may be imparted to the occasion, I would recommend that Grand Chapter appoint a committee to co-operate with them.

WEARING OF REGALIA.

Considerable complaint is made in many parts of the jurisdiction with regard to the absence of regalia and jewels in the Chapters. Whatever ground there may be for the absence of jewels on account of the attendant expense, there can be none for that of regalia. It seems to me that it would be a step in the right direction to increase the initiation fee so as to include regalia. This is done in many Craft lodges and answers its purpose very well.

SUSPENSION IN THE LODGE.

The question comes to me from two or three sections of the jurisdiction as to suspension in lodge affecting membership in the Chapter. It seems to me that there cannot be two opinions on this subject. The Craft degrees are the foundation of the structure. We as Royal Arch Masons are occupants of that structure. We obtained entrance into the Capitular apartments by reason of our connection with the Craft. Without that connection our claims would not have been valid. In my opinion, good standing in the blue is essential to life in the Chapter. It is a trivial question to raise, and one can

hardly understand a Companion so narrow-minded as to be willing to resign his connection with that branch of the Craft to which he owes his Masonic birth.

THE AUSTRALIAN UNION.

As announced in the proceedings of last year, the Canadian Companions in the Colony of Victoria have thrown in their lot with the Companions of that obedience, and henceforth our jurisdiction is limited to the Pacific Coast. The union was effected under the happiest auspices, and I feel sure I but echo the sentiment entertained by the Companions generally of Canada when I express the hope the Grand Chapter of Victoria may grow in numbers and influence and for all time to come be a power for the dissemination of knowledge in our far-away sister colony.

FOREIGN CORRESPONDENCE.

The report on Foreign Correspondence speaks for itself. It is written by a well-informed Companion, one who has kept up to date with the proceedings of every jurisdiction with which we have correspondence. It is not marked by the conventional methods of those who are expert with the scissors and adepts with the paste-pot. No, it is a readable document, the best ever issued by the Grand Chapter, and one that will meet, as did that of 1895, with the unqualified commendation of the heads of every jurisdiction on the continent.

A FINAL WORD.

After all, it is a question whether the address of a retiring officer exerts anything like the influence it might popularly be supposed to exert. Some are disposed to regard these parting efforts as mere attempts at word building, the idea being that by honeyed phrases and kindly criticism the duties of the office are adequately fulfilled.

Speaking with regard to myself, I feel that in the position I have occupied I may possibly have gone to the extreme in my conception of duty. Everyone lays down a line of conduct for himself in accordance with his sense of obligation. If one's standard be high, if one is strenuous in exertion during one's term of office, one is subject to adverse criticism both from those who pre-

ceded him and from those who are likely to follow—from the former because their efforts may not have resulted so successfully, and from the latter because failure to keep the pace which had been set is noted by discerning members of the Craft, who are quick to estimate the relative fulfillment of the duties of the office.

With regard to my tenure of office, I can truly say that every effort I have made has been put forth with the kindest feeling to all Companions without the slightest desire to incite hostile criticism. I have sought neither glory nor reward. There is a wide chasm between the cliff of diffidence and the rock of renown, and I have not attempted to cover it. My work can speak for itself without being proclaimed from the housetops of the Craft. The simple consciousness of faithfulness in office is prized by me more than any external testimonial. It has been my aim and my pride to serve my fellow-Craftsmen. My energy in the cause has not flagged, but has been the same since my retirement from the highest honor given in the primal degrees of the Craft as before I had attained those honors. The best tribute to a man's worth is the affection of the Craft, and the good words which a man hears from those who do not soar East are a testimony to be more highly esteemed than presentations of substantial value.

From first to last the position I have held for two years and more has been one of pleasant associations and memories. I have had the support and the kindest wishes from all. I have been enabled to renew my friendships in different parts of the jurisdiction, friendships that I prize as a man should prize the appreciation of his fellow-Craftsmen. And so, as presiding officer, I take my leave.

J. ROSS ROBERSTON,
Grand First Principal.

It was moved by R. E. Comp. M. Walsh, seconded by R. E. Comp. W. G. Reid, and

Resolved, That the address of the M. E. Grand Z. be referred to the Executive Committee to report thereon during the present Convocation of Grand Chapter.

The following reports of the various Grand Superintendents of Districts were presented :

ST. CLAIR DISTRICT No. 1.

To the Most Excellent the Grand Z., Principals and Officers of the Grand Chapter of Canada ;

I have the honor of submitting herewith my report on the condition of Capitular Masonry in the St. Clair District, which comprises the following Chapters, viz. : No. 47, Wellington, located at Chatham ; No. 71, Prince of Wales, Amherstburg ; No. 73, Erie, Ridgetown ; No. 80, Ark, Windsor ; No. 88, McNabb, Dresden.

On January 9th, 1896, with the assistance of R. E. Comp. P. A. Craig, I installed the officers of Ark Chapter, No. 80. I cannot speak too highly of the efficiency of the new officers, and judging from their ability, know that Capitular Masonry will thrive with renewed energy and vigor. At this Convocation there was a large assemblage of visiting Companions, amongst whom was R. E. Comp. T. M. Davis, Grand Superintendent of the Hamilton District. After the installation ceremonies had been performed and Chapter closed, the Companions repaired to the banqueting hall where a most enjoyable evening was spent.

On February 6th I visited McNabb Chapter, No. 88, and was assisted by R. E. Comps. McNabb and Sharp in installing the officers of the above Chapter. It affords me great pleasure to report Capitular Masonry in Dresden enjoying a revival ; the new officers having taken hold of the work with a determination to put their Chapter in a flourishing condition. A large increase in their membership of good material has been the result.

On June 1st I visited Erie Chapter, No. 73, but just at this time there were no candidates for initiation, therefore did not have an opportunity of seeing their degree work. We had a lengthy discussion on several important matters and I found the officers well posted and very enthusiastic in the work.

On August 1st I visited Prince of Wales Chapter, No. 71, when the M. M. M. Degree was conferred in a very creditable manner, each and every officer doing

his work remarkably well. Although the evening was exceedingly warm, the attendance was large, and this in itself is proof that Prince of Wales Chapter is coming to life once more. The present officers have succeeded in putting their Chapter in good shape and prospects are bright for them.

By request of the Grand Z, a Chapter of Instruction was held at Amherstburg on November 26th, Thanksgiving Day. At three o'clock p. m. the degree of M. M. M. was conferred by Prince of Wales Chapter and in such a manner that the officers deserve great praise. The degrees of M. E. M. and Royal Arch were conferred by Ark Chapter in a most satisfactory manner. After the degree work had been completed the large number of Companions were escorted to the banqueting hall where a carefully prepared spread had been laid by the ladies of Amherstburg, and for which they will not soon be forgotten. It was the opinion of all Companions present that Amherstburg, as well as other places, would be greatly benefited by this splendid meeting.

On December 10th I visited Wellington Chapter, No. 47. It was a regular Convocation when officers were elected. I found much enthusiasm among the members of this Chapter, and from their report I learn that a large number of new members are being added to their roll. The officers then elected, I fully believe, will look well after the interests of Capitular Masonry in Chatham.

On December 30th last, with the assistance of several officers of Ark Chapter, No. 80, I installed the officers of the new Chapter, "King Cyrus," located at Leamington, Ont. This Chapter is located in the centre of a good Masonic district, and with the excellent set of officers, I feel confident that King Cyrus Chapter will in a very short time be one of the best in the district.

The prospects of Capitular Masonry in the St. Clair District are most favorable. The financial condition of the different Chapters and the increased membership is sufficient evidence of this statement.

In closing, I beg to say that in my opinion the practice of advancing candidates from one degree to

another without the testing of their proficiency in preceding degrees is one that should be dealt with by Grand Chapter. More enthusiasm and interest, I feel sure, would be in Capitular Masonry if this habit was remedied and each candidate required to memorize and become familiar with the teaching of the various degrees before being advanced to a higher.

Concluding, I have to express my pleasure at the cordial manner in which I have been received by the different Chapters and feel truly thankful for the assistance rendered by the Companions who accompanied me on my official visits.

Respectfully and fraternally submitted.

THOMAS PETERS,
Grand Supt. St. Clair District.

LONDON DISTRICT No. 2.

To the Most Excellent Grand Z., Officers and Companions of the Grand Chapter of Canada:

Being honored by you with the appointment of Grand Superintendent of the London District, I entered on the duties with a sense of the responsibilities of the office, and herewith tender a report of my proceedings.

I am happy to say that in this district there has been much prosperity and a great deal of enthusiasm among the Chapters and all of them show good results, and the new material brought in is of the best and will prove, I have no doubt, a credit to the Craft. The work is done well in all the Chapters and strictly in accordance with Grand Chapter requirements, and the loyalty of the Companions is unbounded both to Grand Chapter and to representatives, and except at Minnewawa No. 78 perfect harmony prevails.

December 6th, 1895, visited Minnewawa No. 78 at Parkhill, and was agreeably surprised to find a good convocation and splendid work done. As your Grand Superintendent I was royally received, and the officers displayed much interest in everything that concerned the welfare of the Chapter and Craft, and in the care of Ex. Comps. Begg and Thompson and Comps. McLeod, Webb and Dawson, nothing will be left undone to secure their success. Pride such as this will be sure to

meet reward. The energy and enthusiasm of the Companions is evidenced in the long distances they come to attend meetings, driving at times over bad roads, and on trains which necessitate their remaining over night, only getting home next day. In the summer months there was little work done, but at the last three regular meetings they made a good showing.

On the occasion of my visit four candidates were accepted for advancement, and the R. A. degree was conferred on two M. E. Masters. The work was done in a most creditable manner and quite in accordance with the work of Grand Chapter. The E. Z. and Principal Sojourner are competent officers, and the E. Comps. Second and Third Principals performed their duties well and I had much satisfaction in complimenting them.

The books of the Chapter are kept in first-class order by Comp. Wedd, who is an ardent Mason. The election of officers was conducted with great harmony, and good Companions were promoted. Regret was evinced at the removal of E. Comp. Third Principal Thornton from Parkhill to Waterloo, and he was made the recipient of an address accompanied with a beautiful jewel, to which he replied in feeling terms.

I regretted to find an unpleasant feeling existing against Wawanosh Chapter at Sarnia, in consequence of brethren from Forest being taken into that Chapter, and for which they made a special complaint, but inquiry elicited that Forest was in the jurisdiction of Bruce Chapter, Petrolea, and as Wawanosh had obtained permission from it, nothing could be done in the matter. It is unfortunate that this misunderstanding occurred, as Parkhill requires the assistance of Forest in keeping up their Chapter, and having made arrangements with the Grand Trunk Railway people for special train accommodation for their convenience, they anticipated having a good Chapter and putting up good work. When Sarnia began to take the Forest brethren it disheartened them, but I hope they will not give up, but put their shoulder to the wheel and shove their Chapter along. The material of which it is composed is of the best stuff, and I have no doubt if they work together that they will continue to make a good showing and take a prominent

place in Grand Chapter. I regretted that they did not agree to take part and confer one of the degrees at the Chapter of Instruction at Petrolea on the 24th November of this year, as they could have shown good work.

December 16th, 1895, visited Wawanosh Chapter No. 15, Sarnia, and found a large attendance of members and visiting Companions from Port Huron, Mich. The degrees of M. E. M. and R. A. were conferred on the three candidates, and E. Z. Winlow performed his part of the work in a very correct and creditable manner. He was ably assisted by E. Comp. Dr. Wood. Unfortunately Scribe E. and Third Principal were absent, but their places were ably filled. The Principal Sojourner had his work up in good style, and the books of Scribe E. were in perfect order, showing a zealous and faithful discharge of duty. In fact, everything reflects credit on the officers, and the rapid increase of good members bespeaks for it a permanence that will be surprising. It was very gratifying to hear E. Comp. Clark, Grand Lecturer for the State of Michigan, who is at present in Sarnia, express satisfaction at the skill and proficiency displayed by the officers, and his appreciation of our beautiful ritual which was so very grand and sublime. He had not seen the work before and was very much pleased with it. The Chapter room was very neat, and the whiteness of the robes, etc., was very remarkable, indicating on the part of the Companions a due appreciation of their requirements. Your representative was cordially received and hospitably entertained.

December 26th, 1895, visited St. John's Chapter No. 3, London, and was well received with the usual honors, and assisted by R. E. Comps. J. S. Dewar and Carruthers, installed the officers for the ensuing year. Afterwards the M. M. M. degree was given by the newly installed officers in a manner that was creditable to them, and showed that they merited the honors that had been conferred on them. The E. Z., Dr. Balfour, made a good impression, and his manner of training his subordinates has a good effect, and his prospects for a prosperous term are very marked. All the members are zealous and enthusiastic, and aided by the R. E. Comps. Dewar, Cooper, Carruthers, and E. Comps.

Duff, Stratfold, etc., its interests will be well looked after. It has a large membership, and the dues are fairly well paid up, and they have decided to cut off all the names and suspend the Companions who are over one year in arrears. The books, under the care of the veteran Comp. Siddons, S. E., are fairly well kept, and the business of the Chapter suitably recorded.

March 18th, 1896, visited Bruce Chapter No. 53, Petrolea, and found it in an exceedingly prosperous condition, considering that little over a year ago it had been suggested that they surrender their warrant, the Chapter then being over \$300 in debt, and now everything is paid off, the dues nearly all collected, and what is unpaid is balanced by payments made in advance by Companions in foreign countries paying an amount to cover two years. I observed in one case a balance of over eleven dollars to the credit of one Companion. I regretted to find the Scribe E. quite ill, but E. Comp. First Principal Sinclair and Past Z. R. Scott have in a most praiseworthy and zealous manner attended to his duties, and with the other officers of the Chapter had the paraphernalia, etc., in proper order. I observed the absence of sashes, jewels, etc., but during the evening the E. Z. had an exhibition of samples from the manufacturing, and at least a couple of dozen orders were taken before I left.

The R. A. degree was conferred on three M. E. M.'s in a perfect manner, the E. Z. proving himself a veteran in the chair by the ease and familiarity with which he performed his work, and his officers performed their parts in a very careful manner—the Principal Sojourner and Scribes in a specially impressive form. The E. Comps. H. and J. delivered their lectures fairly well.

The books are very well kept, and notwithstanding the illness of the Scribe E., the First Principal has kept everything in perfect order.

Before closing, I was much pleased at a presentation to the Chapter by E. Comp. John Fraser, on behalf of Comp. Joseph Belasco, of a beautiful Masonic Chart, engrossed in Hebrew, the only one of the kind in Canada. It was designed by the Rev. A. H. Nieto,

Rabbi of the Nineteenth Street Synagogue, New York City, late of Kingston, Jamaica, in honor of the Venerable Sir Moses Montefiore, Bart., on the centenary of his birth. Sir Moses, who was a life long Mason, very charitable and very wealthy, practiced the first principles of Masonry to all. The chart is a copy of the tablets of the law which was in the Ark of the Covenant, and is surrounded by Masonic emblems and teachings, a very appropriate subject for the lodge room. It is a valuable treasure, and was suitably acknowledged by E. Comp. Sinclair, and the thanks of the Companions were tendered to Comp. Belasco, who gave a most interesting description of the chart and the manner of obtaining it. There were only one hundred printed and then the plate was destroyed. Bruce Chapter can be congratulated on its possession, and being in a beautiful frame has a fine effect in the room.

May 22nd, 1896, visited St. George's Chapter No. 5, London, officially, and saw E. Comp. Butler and his officers confer the R. A. degree on four M. E. M.'s in a fairly competent manner. This Chapter is in a very prosperous condition, having plenty of work and doing it well. The E. Z. is a most zealous and painstaking officer and has his subordinate officers in good training, and being mostly young Companions are most enthusiastic, displaying zeal and ability. They must in due time develop into competent workers and reflect credit on themselves as well as on this Chapter. On this occasion the work was well done, although not as well as I had seen it when unofficially present. This is my own Chapter, and as I rarely miss a meeting, I am quite familiar with the progress and the correctness of its work.

On the completion of the ceremonies I was most agreeably surprised by E. Comp. Butler calling on me to accept on behalf of the Companions of St. George's Chapter a valuable and pretty Past Z's jewel as a token of esteem in which I was held, and in too flattering terms placed it on my breast. I was of course very much pleased and shall take much pleasure in wearing it.

May 29th, 1896, visited Aylmer Chapter, No. 81, Aylmer, accompanied by Comp. Kingston, of St. John's

Chapter. E. Z. Burgess conferred the R. A. degree on two M. E. M.'s in a very correct manner. The Principal Sojourner and the other officers showed evidence that they had carefully studied their parts. The lectures of E. Comp. Wm. Clark were well rendered. R. E. Comp. Rutherford in his usual and effective manner gave the mystical lecture. With the aid of the Companions named, and other Past Principals and enthusiastic Companions taking such an active interest in the affairs of the Chapter success must attend it. The harmony existing and the extremely good fellowship exhibited among all the Companions is a very pleasing matter. Scribe E. Richards has his books in excellent order, and the dues are pretty well paid up. Comp. Richards is a most diligent officer and takes great delight in anything that enhances the prosperity of his Chapter or the Order. They have a most beautiful Chapter room and every facility for doing good work. Their hospitality and fraternal kindness are proverbial, and on this occasion we were right royally received and entertained, and our visit was a most enjoyable one.

June 11th, 1896, visited Palestine Chapter, No. 54, St. Thomas, accompanied by R. E. Comp. A. E. Cooper, of St. John's, No. 3, and E. Comps. Campbell and Spittal, of St. George's, No. 5, and were cordially and loyally received. E. Z. H. McIntyre conferred the M. M. M. degree and with the exception of a little of the American work introduced by a subordinate officer who was more familiar with it than he was with his own, was pretty well done. The officers all have their work well in hand and Comp. Idsardi, Scribe E., has his books in excellent order and the dues fairly well paid up. This Chapter is doing good work and plenty of it, and making good progress. The visiting Companions complimented it on its prosperity. After being hospitably entertained the visitors left for London well pleased with their visit.

November 24th, 1896, held Chapter of Instruction at Petrolea, St. George's No. 5, of London, exemplifying the M. M. M. and the M. E. M. degrees in the afternoon, and Bruce Chapter No. 53, of Petrolea, doing the R. A. degree in the evening. First Principal Sinclair and his

officers made all the arrangements at Petrolea, and their efforts made the Chapter of Instruction a most useful and enjoyable one. Previous Chapters of Instruction having been held in London or the southern part of the district, I thought if on this occasion I could induce the Chapters at Sarnia and Parkhill to co-operate with Petrolea, each taking one of the degrees, that it would give an impetus to R. A. Masonry in this part of the district and create a friendly spirit of rivalry among the Chapters in a correct rendition of the work. But unfortunately neither Wawanosh or Minnewawa Chapters could see their way to participate, owing to the difficulty in getting the officers away from their various employments. Therefore the officers of St. George's Chapter came to my relief and presented themselves in fair numbers and did good work for the Convocation, and the brethren of Petrolea passed a vote of thanks to the Companions of St. George's Chapter for their visit and assistance. Before the Chapter was called off, Comp. Belasco, by request, again gave a description of the Jewish chart hanging on the wall in the East, and referred to on a former visit, which proved instructive and most interesting to the strangers. He in his peculiar manner decided a point often discussed, as to which was the right or left pillar—that is, if one was on the left when entering, it would be on the right when returning. He answered that a Jew never turned his back on the Temple, but retired backwards, therefore there was no change. Discussion was kept up in a most friendly and beneficial manner, but the work was so well done that there was not much opportunity ; and well it was so, for E. Comp. Sinclair being a conscientious worker himself, he wants a reason for everything, and what he doesn't know is not worth knowing. At this time R. E. Comp. Walsh, Grand H., was announced and received with grand honors. The Petrolea Companions were much disappointed that the M. E. Grand Z. and R. E. Grand J. did not honor them with their presence, as they expected, and as the kindness and hospitality of the Petrolea Companions are proverbial, they on this occasion only required the material to exhibit it on. In the evening a larger number assembled, Companions from distant parts of the district being present, and the First

Principal received your representative and the Grand H. in a regular and loyal manner, when the work of the R. A. degree commenced and was conducted in a thorough and perfect manner, the three Principals, Principal Sojourner and Scribes doing their parts in a most correct and impressive style. They left very little for the Companions to criticize, but nevertheless some of it had to be done, and the Grand H. gave them the benefit of his experience in Grand Chapter, and all expressed themselves delighted with the meeting. R. E. Comp. R. Scott displayed much knowledge and interest and was an able assistant of the E. First Principal in all that pertained to the Chapter. When the Chapter was closed the Companions were all invited by the Petrolea Chapter to refreshments, and at "The Iroquois Hotel" a magnificent banquet was spread, displaying in a marked degree the hospitality of the Companions and the facilities of the new hotel. Ample justice was done to the good things provided, and speeches, recitations and songs filled in the remainder of the evening, and the guests heartily joined in the toast of prosperity, health and happiness of the officers and Companions of Bruce Chapter, closing one of the best meetings of my term.

October 28th, 1896, visited St. John's Chapter No. 3, at London, officially, and found a good attendance. E. Z. Dr. Balfour and Companions gave your Grand Representative a loyal reception. When the business of the Chapter had been completed, the M. M. M. degree was conferred in a very creditable manner. E. Comp. Balfour is a very capable and zealous officer, and considering—as by his explanation—that he had never seen work done out of his own Chapter, he performed the ritualistic duties pretty correctly. He is ably assisted by Second Principal Findlay and Third Principal Carson. The two latter fill leading positions in other Masonic bodies and this guarantees good work. This Chapter is doing fair work and increasing rapidly. As on a previous visit I had installed the officers, I knew what to expect. They have had many meetings, plenty of work and fair attendance. This Chapter is fortunate in having some very prominent Past Grand Chapter officers, among them being R. E. Comps. Dewar, Cooper, Carruthers, etc. Scribe E. John Siddons is a

veteran in the service and still maintains his devotion to the Craft. His books, registers, etc., are in excellent condition. Everything indicates a prosperous future.

And now before handing over the regalia to my successor, permit me again to thank you, Most Excellent Sir, for the honor you have done me, and to thank the Companions of the Chapters who, on the occasion of my visits, have been so good and kind to me. My intercourse with all has been of a most friendly character, and I shall look back with pleasure to those meetings. To Grand Scribe E. I am also indebted for all the information and assistance I required. All the Chapters in this district are in a very prosperous condition, and will, I have no doubt, continue so.

Respectfully and fraternally submitted.

A. G. MCWHINNEY,
Grand Superintendent London District.

London, January 7th, 1897.

WILSON DISTRICT No. 3.

To the Most Excellent the Grand Z., Principals and Officers of the Grand Chapter of Canada :

I herewith submit my report on the condition and prosperity of Capitular Masory in Wilson District for 1895-6.

It comprises five Chapters, viz.: Oxford No. 18, Woodstock; Mount Horeb No. 20, Brantford; Ezra No. 23, Simcoe; Harris No. 41, Ingersoll, and Brant No. 116, Paris.

Brant No. 116, Paris. This Chapter meets the third Friday of every month. I visited it officially on November 15th, 1895. There was a large attendance on that occasion, twenty-seven Companions being present out of a total membership of thirty-one. R. E. Comp. Passmore, of Brantford, was also present on that occasion. The R. A. degree was exemplified by E. Comp. Cox, who was ably supported by the other officers in a very satisfactory manner, especially Comp. Carney, the Principal Sojourner, who performed his duties remarkably well. I again visited this Chapter on June 30th, 1896, and installed the officers-elect for 1896,

assisted by E. Comp. G. R. Whitelaw, of Woodstock, and E. Comp. P. H. Cox, of Paris. The present total membership is thirty-one; number of Convocations held from July, 1895, to December, 1896, nine; average attendance, twelve; value of furniture, etc., \$100; insurance, \$100; liabilities, \$105; assets, \$221; outstanding dues, \$68.75; initiation fee, \$10; dues per year, \$3; Companions in arrears two years and over, three; degrees conferred, M. M. M. two, M. E. M. two, R. A. two. The books of the S. E. are models of neatness, and the Chapter is fortunate in having so efficient an officer as Comp. Taylor. The funds are deposited in one of the chartered banks.

Mount Horeb No. 20, Brantford. This Chapter meets first Friday of every month. I paid an official visit to this Chapter on March 6th, 1896. None of the degrees were exemplified on that occasion, there being no candidates ready, which I very much regretted. Of all the Chapters in the district this has appeared the most unpromising. I made innumerable efforts to get a statement of what they were doing, but with no success, consequently no statement as to their standing is forthcoming. They possess an intelligent staff of officers, and why so little interest is taken in R. A. Masonry, I cannot explain.

Oxford No. 18, Woodstock. This Chapter meets the third Monday of every month. This being my own Chapter, I have visited all but one of the regular Convocations. I paid my official visit to the Chapter on Jan. 20th, 1896, when I had the pleasure of installing an efficient staff of officers, assisted by R. E. Comp. Gavin Stewart and R. E. Comp. W. A. Karn. The exemplification of the several degrees has been done in a very satisfactory manner during the past year. A decided improvement in many ways has taken place during the past few months. Number of Convocations held from July, 1895, to December, 1896, fourteen; present total membership, fifty-eight; average attendance, twenty; value of furniture, etc., \$250, insured for full amount; liabilities, nil; assets, \$350; outstanding dues, \$100; initiation fee, \$20; dues per year, \$2; Companions in arrears two years and over, fourteen; suspensions, three.

The books of S. E. are neatly and correctly kept. The funds are paid over to Treasurer and deposited in chartered bank.

Ezra Chapter No. 23, Simcoe. Visited this Chapter officially June 10th, 1896, accompanied by E. Comp. G. R. Whitelaw and Comp. C. Hubner, of Woodstock. The R. A. degree was exemplified on that occasion; the officers were capable and did their work very well. Number of Convocations held from July, 1895, to December, 1896, thirteen; present membership, sixty-two; average attendance, eighteen; initiation fee, \$10; dues per year, \$2; value of furniture, etc., \$600; insured, \$400; number of degrees conferred, forty-one, M. M. M. twelve, M. E. M. twelve, R. A. seventeen. The books of S. E. are well and correctly kept. The Chapter is fortunate in having so efficient a Scribe E. as Comp. Kelly. The funds are deposited in a chartered bank.

Harris No. 41, Ingersoll. This Chapter meets second Friday in every month. Visited officially on June 12th, 1896, and was accompanied by R. E. Comp. Gavin Stewart, E. Comp. W. A. Karn, and Comps. R. Cuddy and W. G. Clarke, of Woodstock. By request I installed the officers for 1896, assisted by R. E. Comp. Stewart and R. E. Comp. Karn. After ceremony of installation the newly installed officers exemplified the R. A. degree in a fairly satisfactory manner. This Chapter is fortunate in having with them R. E. Comp. Walsh, Grand H., whose good counsel at all times is fully appreciated. The prospects for this Chapter are good. Number of Convocations held, nine; number of degrees conferred, six, M. M. M. four, M. E. M. one, R. A. one; assets, \$450; furniture, \$300; insurance, \$300; initiation fee, \$10; dues per year, \$2; outstanding dues, \$60; present membership, thirty-eight; average attendance 16. The Chapter is to be congratulated in having so worthy an S. E. as Comp. O. H. Grant.

Chapter of Instruction at Woodstock. By request of the M. E. Grand Z. a Chapter of Instruction was held in the Masonic Hall, Woodstock, on the 2nd December, 1896, but I regret to say that it was not as successful as was anticipated, owing to the fact that

Mt. Horeb (Brantford), and Ezra (Simcoe), were not represented, nor were any explanations offered for their absence; but I presume their reasons are best known to themselves. R. E. Comp. Walsh, Grand H., and R. E. Comp. Reid, Grand J., honored us with their presence on that occasion, whose words of advice and encouragement were well received. A lodge of M. M. M. was opened at 4 p. m. by Oxford Chapter, in the absence of Brantford and Simcoe. E. Comp. R. G. Whitelaw, assisted by the other officers, exemplified the degree in a very satisfactory manner. A lodge of M. E. M. was then opened by Oxford Chapter, the same officers presiding. The degree was rendered efficiently by E. Comp. Whitelaw, assisted by the other officers.

The R. A. Chapter was duly opened at 8.30 by Harris Chapter, Ingersoll, and Brant Chapter, Paris, E. Comp. P. H. Cox, Z., assisted by E. Comp. Patterson and Comp. McLeod as Principal Sojourner. The R. A. degree was exemplified in a very satisfactory manner. But in the R. A. degree, as also in the others, too little attention is paid to the points of detail, in which changes have been recently made in the work. After refreshments were served, appropriate speeches were made by the distinguished Companions present.

Speaking generally, I may say that there has not been reported to me any lack of harmony in any of the Chapters in the district.

I have also found throughout the district a general failure to comply with that part of the constitution referring to the Marks and their registration, with one exception, Ezra No. 23, Simcoe, who have the authorized Book of Marks and properly filled in. As to the outlook of Capitalar Masonry in Wilson District, I consider it encouraging.

In conclusion, I wish to take this opportunity to thank the Companions of the district for the honor they conferred on me when they elected me to the office of Grand Superintendent of Wilson District No. 3, and for the fraternal and cordial reception they have given me, and also those who accompanied me in my official visits.

All of which is fraternally submitted.

A. R. K. MACDONALD,
Grand Superintendent Wilson District.

WELLINGTON DISTRICT, No. 4.

To the Most Excellent the Grand Z., Principals and Officers of the Grand Chapter of Canada ;

I have the honor to submit my report on the condition of Capitular Masonry in the Wellington District, and in doing so I have much pleasure in testifying to the general harmony prevailing and the good work done in all the Chapters.

My first official visit was made to Seymour Chapter No. 38, Shelburne, Jan. 10th, 1896.

There was a good attendance of the Companions present. The work for the evening was exalting three candidates, which was very creditably done by the regular officers assisted by myself. I also had the pleasure of installing the officers who, I am sure, will do the work of the Chapter in a satisfactory manner.

This Chapter is not strong in members and the only difficulty in the prosperity of the Chapter may be the lack of new material.

I next visited Waterloo Chapter No. 32, Galt, February 10th, 1896.

There was a large attendance of Companions present on this occasion, the work of the evening being the Royal Arch Degree conferred on two candidates, which was done in a first-class manner by the regular officers with the exception of the First Principal, who was absent, his place being taken by R. E. Comp. Taylor.

This Chapter is in a flourishing condition as they have work almost every meeting night. The members all take a very active part and try to increase the list of membership. The members of Waterloo Chapter are to be congratulated on their fine rooms which are well adapted for Royal Arch Masonry.

I next visited Enterprise Chapter No. 67, Harrison, on Monday, May 4th, 1896. They had exalting of three candidates on this occasion. The work was done by the regular officers. As I have visited this Chapter several times during my term I have each time noticed some improvement in the work of the officers. Enterprise Chapter is progressing very favorably. They have

had considerable work this term and their prospects are good for the coming year.

During the year just closed the Royal Arch Masons of Berlin and Waterloo made application to the Grand Chapter of Canada for dispensation to institute a new Chapter, which was granted, and the Chapter instituted and the officers installed by M. E. Comp. T. Sargent on March 6th, 1896, to be named Berlin Chapter.

My official visit to Berlin Chapter, U. D., Berlin, was on June 15th, 1896. This meeting was an emergency, and although held on a Saturday evening, all the Companions were present. The Royal Arch Degree was conferred on three candidates by the officers in a most creditable manner. From the good start the Companions of Berlin Chapter have made I have no doubt but what it will be one of the leading Chapters in this district.

Guelph Chapter No. 40, is my own Chapter. I have visited all its regular meetings, but one, during the year. I made my official visit on Dec. 11th, when the Royal Arch Degree was conferred on two candidates. The officers are fairly well up in their work, and by the end of term will be very efficient. I regret to say that Guelph Chapter is not increasing in membership as fast as it ought to, as it has five Blue Lodges to draw from, but plenty of work in the near future is expected. I had the pleasure of installing the officers on July 10th, assisted by R. E. Comp. Scoon.

My last official visit was made to Ionic Chapter No. 83, Orangeville, on Dec. 22nd. The work for the evening was conferring Royal Arch Degrees, which was done by the officers in a most satisfactory manner. The officers are all well up in their work and can confer the three degrees in a first-class manner. I notice a great improvement from my last official visit; the members are regular in attendance as they have work to do at almost every meeting.

Ionic Chapter, the District and Grand Chapter have sustained a great loss by the death of R. E. Comp. Fox, who died October 3rd, 1896. He filled all the principal elective offices in connection with the Lodges

and was Grand Superintendent of the District; also Comp. Irwin who died October 25th, 1896. Comp. Irwin was Scribe E. for a number of years.

I regret to say I was unable to carry out the wishes of the Most Excellent the Grand Z. to hold a Chapter of Instruction in the District this year owing to the large amount of sickness I had in my family.

In conclusion I thank the Companions of Wellington District for the many kind attentions and fraternal courtesies given to me on my official visit, and I shall ever entertain a warm feeling for the Companions. Hoping that Wellington District will continue as prosperous and harmonious in the future as it has been in the past.

All of which is fraternally submitted.

RD. MAHONY,
Grand Superintendent Wellington District.

HAMILTON DISTRICT No. 5.

To the Most Excellent the Grand Z., Principals and Officers of the Grand Chapter of Canada :

Having been chosen as the Grand Superintendent of this district at the last Grand Chapter meeting, I now render an account of my stewardship. The Hamilton District is not a very large one as it comprises only four Chapters, viz., Hiram No. 2, St. John's No. 6, of Hamilton, St. Clair No. 75, of Milton, and White Oak No. 164, of Oakville. But I believe what it lacks in numbers of Chapters is compensated for by enthusiasm and good work as far as I have seen, and I have travelled far and visited many. I believe the work done in the Hamilton District is second to none.

My first official visit was made to my mother Chapter, Hiram No. 2, at the December, 1895, meeting for the election of officers for the year 1896, on which occasion I was accompanied by the District Secretary, E. Comp. T. McCallum, to whom I am much indebted during my term of office for valuable assistance. R. E. Comp. W. G. Reid, Grand J., R. E. Comps. Birrell, Moodie, Smith, Malloy. and E. Comps. Magness, Irwin, Grant, Sweetman, and a host of others were likewise always ready to help. I found the Chapter in a good

financial position, well officered, good work being done, and making a substantial healthy increase in numbers. Neither this Chapter nor St. John's here found it necessary to reduce the initiation fee below \$20.

St. John's Chapter No. 6, was the next Chapter visited, also on the occasion of the election of officers in December, 1895, and if I say the above Chapter in regard to members and quality of work cannot be excelled by Hiram, it only does them justice. In fact the two Chapters and their officers work so harmoniously it is difficult sometimes to know which is which. I was ably assisted in this visit by the same R. E. Comps. as on my visit to Hiram.

On January 8th, 1896, I installed the newly elected officers of Hiram and St. John's Chapters, when R. E. Comp. Birrell, Past Grand Superintendent, rendered valuable aid, also R. E. Comp. W. G. Reid.

The Past Principals' night in Hiram Chapter, when the various offices were filled by old Past Z's of the Chapter, proved to the satisfaction of the Companions generally that the exemplification of the Holy Royal Arch degree can be done by the veterans without a flaw. They had not forgotten their work although some of them had not taken an active part for fourteen years. The E. Comps. and R. E. Comps. who formed this team were Irwin, Sweetman, Grant, Emory, Smith, Howse, etc.

On October 13th, 1896, I officially visited St. Clair Chapter No. 75, Milton, accompanied by E. Z. McCallum, District Secretary, R. E. Comp. W. G. Reid, R. E. Comps. W. Birrell and Malloy, E. Comps. Walters and Pedlar and Comps. Tunstead, Newport, Chapman, Hand and Teal. Found the Chapter in good condition financially and otherwise except they were not increasing in numbers. They are however out of debt, own their furniture and it is insured. They exemplified the Mark degree to my entire satisfaction as well as the opening and closing ceremonies in the M. E. and R. A. We were right royally received by E. Comp. Hoff the presiding Z., and the officers and Companions on this occasion, and although they have been at a standstill

for some time they seem to think there is a brighter future soon to be realized by them.

On November 20th I again visited Hiram No. 2 at their election of officers for 1897, resulting as follows: E. Comp. Smith, Z., E. Comp. F. Staunton, Comp. F. Miller and E. Comp. W. E. Brown, S. E., Comp. F. Sachs, S. N., Comp. G. Moore, P. S., a very excellent selection. Everything in connection with the Chapter is of the highest order and the greatest harmony prevailing.

Visited White Oak Chapter on the evening of December 21st, 1896, on the occasion of their election of officers for the ensuing year, accompanied by R. E. Comp. W. G. Reid, R. E. Comp. W. Birrell, P. G. S., and E. Comps. T. McCallum, T. Pedlar, W. Teal, F. Walters, and Comps. Chapman, Hand, Bain, Lannigan and Moore, at which the Mark Master degree was exemplified in excellent manner. Also found this Chapter in a sound financial position, a good balance in Treasurer's hands. The hall is rented from the Blue Lodge. After the Chapter was closed the visitors were invited to a banquet at which a very enjoyable time was spent, as the Oakville Companions so well know how to entertain visitors at all times.

On the 10th of December, 1896, according to a request from the Grand Z., I called a District Chapter of Instruction on which occasion it being St. John's No. 6 regular Convocation, they elected their officers for the ensuing year, under whose management I predict a continuance of the prosperity they have enjoyed for the past year.

On account of several officers of St. Clair Chapter being unable to attend, R. E. Comp. Birrell undertook to exemplify the Mark degree with the following officers from the two city Chapters: W. M., R. E. Comp. W. Birrell, and E. Comps. Emory, Walters and Teale, and Comps. J. E. Riddell, P. Nichol, W. Hand, R. Lancefield filling the other chairs. The degree was worked almost perfectly.

At 7.15 White Oak Chapter No. 164, Oakville, did full justice to the Most Excellent degree with the fol-

lowing officers: E. Comps. Spiers, Hilmer, Howarth, Robinson, and Comps. Ford and McKnight. This was also done in a creditable manner.

After 8 P. M. the H. R. A. was called on and that supreme degree conferred by the exaltation of three Most Excellent Master Masons in a manner that it would be most difficult for the most expert critic to find fault. The work divided between the officers of Hiram No. 2 and St. John's No. 6. The three Principals and Scribe of each Chapter taking some part and Comp. Logan of St. John's the P. S.

Every one did well at this Chapter of Instruction, although we were not honored with the presence of the Grand Z., H., or G. S. E. Some very illustrious Companions graced the Convocation, being the R. E. Hugh Murray, R. E. W. G. Reid, R. E. Comps. J. J. Mason, W. Birrell, A. Smith, W. R. Howse, and E. Comps. H. Sweetman, Emory, Pedlar, and a great many others. At the close of the Chapter the Companions adjourned to the banquet hall where a magnificent repast was partaken of accompanied by song, story and oratory that ended in what may be termed a blaze of glory.

In concluding my report I wish to express my gratitude for the kind, cordial and generous assistance accorded me by every one I came in contact with in my official capacity.

Fraternally submitted.

T. M. DAVIS,

Grand Superintendent Hamilton District.

HURON DISTRICT No. 6.

To the Most Excellent the Grand Z., Principals and Officers of the Grand Chapter of Canada :

On the 26th day of October, A. D., 1896, I received my appointment to succeed the late R. E. Comp. F. W. Gearing in the office of Grand Superintendent of Huron District. He was one of the most zealous and able Companions in this jurisdiction, whose removal was the cause of unfeigned sorrow to every Craftsman who had ever been brought in contact with him in Masonic work.

Appreciating the confidence reposed in me by the M. E. Grand Z., I determined to devote myself to the performance of the duties of the office, so far as the short space of time at my disposal and the claims of my business would permit.

In submitting my report on the condition of Capital Masonry in this District, it will necessarily be very brief owing to the fact that I was unable to visit but few of the Chapters under my charge.

From the information I have received from the Scribe E. of the different Chapters I find that very few of them have more than held their own since the last meeting of the Grand Chapter. Most of them have good efficient officers, and meet fairly regular, but the lack of getting new members is the drawback to their prosperity. I called a Chapter of Instruction to be held at Kincardine on Dec. 17th, and fully intended to be present, but owing to circumstances arising at the last moment over which I had no control, I was unable to get there, much to my regret. I wired R. E. Comp. D. H. Martyn to take charge of the meeting. He reported to me that the meeting passed off very satisfactorily, that all the degrees were exemplified in a most creditable manner, the only draw-back being the very few visiting Companions present.

On Jan. 6th I had the pleasure of installing the officers of Tecumseh and Saugeen Chapters respectively at Stratford. There was a large attendance of Companions present.

Tecumseh Chapter No. 34 continues the principal one in the District, and I doubt very much if there is a Chapter in the Province that is doing better work, or is in a more flourishing condition. The newly installed officers were able to confer any of the degrees on the night of their installation. This is as it should be, but how seldom is it found to be the case. The present membership is 102, an increase since last report of 25. Twenty-six meetings have been held, with an average attendance of 20. Total dues outstanding, \$50. Total assets, \$400, with liabilities of \$20.

Huron Chapter No. 30, Goderich, has 42 members at the present time. Since last report one member has

been received and one member withdrawn. It will be seen by this that it is not making very much progress. I am in hopes that with the new officers new life will be infused into this Chapter.

St. James Chapter No. 45, St. Marys. This Chapter continues to do good work, and meets regularly. The officers confer the degrees in a very creditable manner. Three new members have been admitted since the last report. The total membership at the present time is 73.

Saugeen Chapter No. 50, Mitchell. This the newest Chapter in the District, I am happy to say, is in a very satisfactory condition. They have 18 members, and meet regularly. They admitted two new members during the year. Their finances are in good shape, with very little outstanding. It has a large future before it.

Havelock Chapter No. 63, Kincardine. Of this Chapter I have no report as to the amount of work done during the year, but am told on good authority that it is prosperous, and doing good work, which is only to be expected as long as R. E. Comp. Martin continues to take an active interest in it.

Malloch Chapter No. 66, Seaforth. This Chapter has not made much progress during the past year. They meet regularly and the officers are well posted in the work, and there is no reason why they should not be able to make a good showing during the coming year. I believe they will.

Lebanon Chapter No. 84, Wingham. I have no report to make upon this Chapter, not having received any information from them.

Exeter Chapter No. 85, Exeter. This Chapter is not in as satisfactory condition as I should like to see it, and only five meetings have been held since July, 1895, and no new members received. No debts owing, and Grand Chapter dues paid up to date. At the regular Convocation held on Jan. 5th, 1897, the Companions discussed the question of surrendering their charter, but came to the conclusion to make a special effort and bring the Chapter again up to its old standing. I have every confidence they will do so.

In conclusion, I have to express my regret that in the short time I have held the position of Grand Superintendent I was not able to visit all the Chapters in the District, and I trust the Companions will take the will for the deed.

All of which is fraternally submitted.

H. FRED SHARP,
Grand Superintendent Huron District.

NIAGARA DISTRICT No. 7.

To the Most Excellent the Grand Z., Principals and officers of the Grand Chapter of Canada :

As Grand Superintendent of Niagara District No. 7 for the year 1896, I have to report as follows :

During the year I had the pleasure of visiting all the Chapters in this District excepting Grimsby Chapter No. 69, which I was unable to visit by reason of there being no Convocation of the Chapter during the year. With this exception, however, I have pleasure in stating that I found all the Chapters in this District in a healthy condition, and that a spirit of energy appeared to prevail among the Companions of the various Chapters which assures their continued success and prosperity. The financial position of each appeared sound and with a reasonably good membership. I also caused a Chapter of Instruction to be held at Welland on Thursday, 17th Dec., which was well attended and at which the following Chapters took part: Mount Moriah Chapter exemplified the Mark Master degree, Willson Chapter exemplified the Most Excellent Degree, and McCallum Chapter the Royal Arch, all being done in a highly creditable manner and to my entire satisfaction.

I feel assured from what I have seen in the different Chapters that Royal Arch Masonry in this District is certain to increase in strength and importance and exert that beneficial influence which its high principles of morality entitle it.

Fraternally submitted,

W. M. GERMAN,
Grand Superintendent Niagara District.

TORONTO DISTRICT, No. 8.

To the Most Excellent the Grand Z., Principals and Officers of the Grand Chapter of Canada :

As Grand Superintendent of this the Eighth Toronto District, I have the honor to submit my report of the work of the Chapters under my jurisdiction for the period which has elapsed since I assumed the duties of the office in July, 1895. The Chapters which comprise the District are St. Andrew and St. John No. 4; King Solomon's No. 8; Doric No. 60, Newmarket; York No. 62, Eglinton; St. Paul No. 65; Occident No. 77; Orient No. 79; and Antiquity No. 91.

I have visited every one of these Chapters at least twice and several of them more frequently, and it is with pleasure that I report that in nearly every instance I found ground for commendation. All the Chapters situate within the limits of the City of Toronto are working actively and may be reported as in good condition. In the case of Doric Chapter, Newmarket, I am hopeful that with the re-awakened interest referred to elsewhere, that cause for anxiety respecting its future may be removed. A little encouragement to those who have taken up the work will, I feel sure, produce good results. With increased interest there is a good prospect of York Chapter becoming more active. I may be pardoned for suggesting that Companions from the city Chapters may lend some assistance in this direction. Perfect harmony prevails throughout the District, and I am happy to say that no complaints have been brought to my notice, which is matter for congratulation.

During my visits to the various Chapters I have endeavored to impress upon the members the necessity of paying greater attention to the musical portion of the ceremonies, the rendition of which has in many cases been productive of the only discordant note which has come under my notice. I have noticed during my recent visits some improvements in this respect.

My first official act was the appointment of V. E. Comp. Chas. A. Matthews as my District Secretary, who has performed the duties of his office with entire satisfaction to myself.

The Most Excellent the Grand First Principal having intimated his desire that a Chapter of Instruction should be held for this District, I summoned a meeting of the First Principals of the eight Chapters under my charge. Some difficulty was experienced in arranging a suitable date, but at some sacrifice by St. Andrew and St. John, R. A. C., No. 4, at my request the regular meeting night of that Chapter, Friday, 20th November was fixed upon. Having regard to the interests of the Royal Craft in the District, I asked E. Comp. Dunning and officers of King Solomon's Chapter to exemplify the Mark Master Mason's Degree; E. Comp. J. Hetherington and officers, that of Most Excellent Master; and E. Comp. Glanville and officers of St. Andrew and St. John No. 4, that of the Royal Arch. Unfortunately, on the afternoon of that day I was taken ill suddenly, and in consequence was deprived of the privilege of being present, to which I had looked forward with no small degree of pleasure. There was, I am informed, a large attendance of Companions and great interest was shown. The Most Excellent the Grand First Principal, J. Ross Robertson, was present and was received in due form. In my enforced absence the Most Excellent Companion Thomas Sargent, with his usual readiness and courtesy, kindly took charge of the proceedings. I cannot do better than forward for your information the report furnished me by him as being much more ably written and the expression of a riper knowledge than any I might be able to offer. It is as follows:

"On 20th November a Chapter of Instruction was held of the District. I regret that so few were present from Newmarket. There was a large attendance, the Masonic Blue Room being filled. The work of M M was exemplified by the officers of King Solomon's Chapter No. 8. Owing to the unavoidable absence of the Z., E. Comp. C. H. Dunning (since deceased), the chair was occupied by E. Comp. W. H. Woodstock. The degree was creditably exemplified. The degree of M. E. M. was exemplified by the officers of Occident Chapter, and when I say that it was rendered letter-perfect I can say no more. The Royal Arch was in the hands of the officers of St. Andrew and St. John, and they gave

the ritual precisely as laid down in the work, the First Principal of Orient Chapter, Comp. Foster, giving the Mystical Lecture, and I have never heard it better rendered. This meeting was a decided success and was characterized with harmony and good fellowship.

"The Companions then repaired to the refreshment room where a most-enjoyable time was held for a couple of hours.

"I am convinced from the various expression of opinion which I have heard that the welfare of Royal Arch Masonry has been promoted by the gathering."

St. Andrew and St. John. This being my mother Chapter, I commenced my tour of official visitation by visiting this Chapter on 18th October, 1895. I found E. Comps. George Muir, Z; James Glanville, H.; and J. McCurrah, J., all in their places. There was a large gathering of members and visitors in honor of the occasion, and a very happy evening was spent. I had notified the First Principal that I expected to see some work performed, and he very conscientiously gratified my wish by having all three degrees worked, the Chapter being closed down by midnight. The Mark Master Mason Degree was worked by E. Comp. McCurrah, the Most Excellent by E. Comp. Glanville, and the Royal Arch by E. Comp. Love.

My second visit, an informal one, was on 17th April, but this was one of the few occasions upon which there was no work this year.

On October 16th I paid a third visit when I again saw the three degrees worked, the Mark Master Mason by E. Comp. Jones, J., the Most Excellent Master by E. Comp. McCurrah, H., and the Royal Arch by E. Comp. Glanville, Z. On this occasion there was a large number of visitors present, many of them from King Solomon's Chapter, to witness the exaltation of Comp. Charles Brown of that Chapter, which was conferred at the request of E. Comp. Dunning.

This being my own Chapter, I feel some diffidence in speaking of the excellence of the work which I witnessed. I cannot in justice to the E. Companions and officers, however, omit to compliment them upon the

high state of efficiency to which they have attained. E. Comps. Love, Glanville, McCurrah and Jones are all conscientious officers and the ritual loses none of its beauty and force at their hands. The subordinate officers are well up in their work, especially Comp. Clewlo, the Principal Sojourner. Having for several years had first-class men in the office of S. E., the books have been well and neatly kept, and Comp. Boyce, the S. E. for 1896, has kept up the record. I concluded my visitation of the District, as I had commenced it, in this Chapter on 15th January, 1897, when the officers for 1897 were installed.

King Solomon's Chapter No. 8. On November 1st, 1895, I visited this well known Chapter. The three Principals, E. Comps. Woodstock, Z., C. H. Dunning, H., and J. S. Lovell, J., were in their places and were all proficient in their work. The work generally was but indifferently performed. It is fair to state that it was explained by Comp. Woodstock that several of the subordinate officers were absent and the Companions who acted as substitutes did so without previous preparation.

On my second visit which was made on the 6th November of this year, the Royal Arch degree was conferred. E, Comps. Dunning, Z., J. Lovell, H., and Porteous, J., occupying their respective chairs. A great improvement was noticeable in the work, all the officers giving evidence of careful study and rehearsal. The books of the Chapter are neatly and correctly kept. It was with very great regret that I learned shortly after this meeting of the death of E. Comp. Dunning. Unfortunately he was not spared to complete his year of office which will be recorded as one of great advancement for King Solomon's Chapter. He was a painstaking officer, attentive to detail, and devoted much time and thought to the interests of his Chapter. Few Companions at his time of life possess the enthusiasm which enabled him to get up his work thoroughly and to become the indefatigable visitor which he was. His loss is mourned by the Chapter to which he was an ornament and by the Craft in the city generally.

Doric Chapter No. 60, Newmarket. On my first

visit to this Chapter I was accompanied from Toronto by R. E. Comp. B. Saunders, R. E. Comp. P. Lee, Grand Registrar; V.E. Comp. C. A. Matthews, G. 1st A. S.; E. Comps. Joseph King and L. B. Montgomery, and Comp. S. W. Grant. It was the annual meeting and the officers were all elected by acclamation. I examined the books and found them very creditable and the dues fairly well paid up. Upon my return on 2nd Dec. inst., I found that there had been no meeting held since 2nd May, 1896, when a lecture had been given by V. E. Comp. Borngasser. This Chapter owes its existence to the untiring efforts and determination of E. Comp. E. H. Brunton. It has only been kept alive with difficulty, the Companions appearing to have lapsed into a state of apathy. The circular calling this meeting contained the notice of a proposal to surrender the warrant, but after some discussion E. Comp. Brunton agreed to again accept the office of Z, and received the support of E. Comps. D. H. B. Phillips, J. E. Hollingshead and other staunch Companions who have taken office with him. Another determined attempt will be made to revive the interest and bring the Chapter once more into a good working condition. It was my privilege to speak words of encouragement to the Companions, and I have every reason to hope that my successor in office will be able to report that the Chapter is again on the road to prosperity.

York Chapter No. 62. My first visit to the Hall at Eglinton, where this Chapter meets, was made on the night of the regular meeting in November, 1895, but was barren of results. E. Comp. Duncan, Z., was present with two or three Companions, but a sufficient attendance could not be secured to open the Chapter, much to the disappointment of that E. Companion. It was explained that the failure was due to the absence of several old and tried Companions who had been lured away to Muskoka by the greater attractions of the chase after venison.

It was unfortunate that on the occasion of my second visit, which was made on 3rd September instant, there was no work done. Ex. Comp. Madden, Z., presided at the election of officers, which passed off

harmoniously. It is matter of regret that the Companions do not show greater interest in the business and work of this Chapter.

St. Paul's No. 65. On the occasion of my first visit to this Chapter I had the pleasure of witnessing the exaltation of Comp. C. R. W. Postlethwaithe, the worthy son of a worthy sire, my old and esteemed friend and a predecessor in my office, R. E. Comp. Postlethwaithe, who was also present. The First Principal's chair was occupied by E. Comp. Donald, Z., who was supported by R. E. Comp. Benjamin Allen, Acting H., and E. Comp. McKnight, J. The ritualistic and floor work of the Supreme Degree was faultless, and it afforded me the greatest pleasure to congratulate the officers upon the fact that I had never witnessed better.

I again visited this Chapter on 11th November, 1896, and found E. Comp. Douglas Armour, Z., E. Comp. J. McKnight, H., and E. Comp. Harcourt, J., all in their places. The Principal Sojourner was unavoidably absent, and at the request of the First Principal, R. E. Comp. Allen undertook to perform that officer's work entirely without preparation. The Right Excellent Companion under these trying circumstances did the work in a manner which reflected the highest credit upon himself. Upon this occasion also I was pleased to congratulate the officers upon the high degree of excellence which they have attained in the exemplification of the beautiful degrees of the Royal Craft.

The books of this Chapter are remarkably well kept and the dues are well looked after. This Chapter suffered a severe loss during the year by the death of R. E. Comp. T. F. Blackwood who for many years had worthily filled the office of Treasurer. The Right Excellent Companion was faithful in his attendance at the convocations and devoted to the interests of the Chapter, which owes not a little of its success to the fatherly interest taken by him in all its affairs. His zeal and fidelity furnish an inspiration to those who miss his brotherly grasp and genial smile to emulate the example which he set them.

Occident Chapter No. 77. I have paid two visits to this Chapter, the first being on 11th November, 1895,

when the Mark Master Mason degree was conferred by E. Comp. William Riddle, assisted by E. Comps. Bunting, H., and Wm. Murdoch, J., who acted as S. W. and J. W. respectively. The work was very well done and I was enabled to compliment the Chapter upon the efficiency of its officers. Interest in the proceedings of the evening was increased by the presence of E. Comp. Horton and the officers and members of Antiquity Chapter who paid an official visit.

My second visit was on 11th December, 1896, when I found the chair occupied by R.E. Comp. John Hetherington who had again gone into harness as First Principal. As on my first visit a candidate was advanced to the Mark Master Mason degree, E. Comp. J. J. Thompson performing the work, assisted by an efficient staff of officers. In E. Comp. Thompson the Chapter has an excellent officer and a good ritualist. For the past two years the chair of First Principal has been occupied by Past Z's in the person of V. E. Comp. Riddle and R. E. Comp. Hetherington, who have devoted much time and thought to the promotion of the interests of the Chapter. There are some good officers coming forward and it is confidently anticipated that Occident has entered upon an era of prosperity. The Chapter after careful consideration took what the Companions believe to be a wise step in deciding to move to more desirable quarters, and on 20th April last I gave my sanction to the change, representations having been made to me that the interests of the Chapter would be promoted thereby. The new place of meeting is situate at the corner of College and Brunswick avenue and an increased attendance at Convocations and a greater interest in the work has been reported to me as a result.

Orient Chapter No. 79. I visited this Chapter on 24th October, 1895. E. Comp. F. W. Unitt was in the chair. The Mark Master Mason degree was exemplified by E. Comp. McMaster, the work being specially well done.

I again visited the Chapter at the regular Convocation in November, 1896, which happened to fall on Thanksgiving day. Notwithstanding the fact that it was

a holiday and that family gatherings and other entertainments formed strong attractions elsewhere there was a good attendance. E. Comp. G. B. Foster, Z., was in his place and conferred the Most Excellent Master degree. The work was very well done by all the officers, the Z. being entitled to special credit.

The books of the Chapter are well kept and the dues are fairly well paid up. In past years I have spent many pleasant evenings with the Companions of Orient and regretted that many of the old faces were missing on the occasion of both of my visits. This Chapter owes much to the unselfish interest taken in its welfare by V. E. Comp. Bates, who is always to be found at the meetings and makes a model Treasurer.

Antiquity Chapter No. 91. My first official visit to this Chapter was on 21st October, 1895, when the Mark Master Mason and Most Excellent Master degrees were conferred upon two candidates. The Mark degree was conferred by E. Comp. Arthur Allan in a most creditable manner. The subordinate officers performed their part of the ceremony in a conscientious manner. E. Comp. First Principal Samuel Horton who was in the chair, conferred the Most Excellent Master degree. This work was also well done. I was accompanied on this occasion by R. E. Comp. P. T. Lee and V. E. Comp. Matthews, District Secretary.

I again visited the Chapter on 16th November, 1896, when the chair was occupied by E. Comp. Samuel Horton, I. P. Z., in the absence of E. Comp. Allan, Z. The Mark Master Degree was conferred upon one candidate, the work being performed by E. Comp. Horton in the unavoidable absence of E. Comp. E. M. C. Donovan, J. The manner in which the work was done was not at all in keeping with the standard attained upon my first visit, which is probably attributable to the fact that E. Comp. Horton was not aware previous to the meeting that he would be called upon to do the work. This Chapter has suffered during the past year owing to the business engagements of E. Comp. Allan, causing his frequent absence from the city. The other officers are willing and enthusiastic and in the earlier part of the year when the Excellent Z. was able to be

present and hold regular rehearsals the ritual was well rendered.

This Chapter has recently raised its fee from \$10 to \$15, believing that the change will be beneficial to the interests of the Chapter.

I cannot close without expressing my sense of gratitude towards the Grand Z. and Grand Scribe E. for the courtesy and assistance I have received from them. I also desire to express my thanks to R. E. Comp. Geo. J. Bennett, whose counsel and advice have always been at my disposal; and R. E. Comp. P. T. Lee, Grand Registrar, for his kindness in accompanying me upon nearly all my official visits. To the officers and Companions of the various Chapters I am also indebted for the uniform courtesy and hearty welcome which I have received at all times, and can assure them that I shall long remember the pleasant hours that we have spent together.

In conclusion, I have to express my regrets that, owing to circumstances in connection with my business affairs, I have not been able to visit the Chapters as frequently as I would have desired. I have, however, succeeded in visiting each set of officers, and am satisfied that in retiring from office I leave the District in a healthy state.

All of which is fraternally submitted.

WM. SIMPSON,
Grand Superintendent Toronto District.

GEORGIAN DISTRICT No. 9.

To the Most Excellent the Grand Z., Principals and Officers of the Grand Chapter of Canada :

I have much pleasure in submitting the third report on the progress and condition of Capitular Masonry in Georgian District No. 9.

Immediately on my appointment (for which honor I desire warmly to thank the Companions of this District) I appointed E. Comp. R. I. Fraser as my District Secretary, and Comp. E. B. Harper, D. D., District Chaplain. They have performed their duties excellently.

In compliance with the request of the M. E. the Grand Z. I held a Chapter of Instruction in Collingwood on the 4th December, 1896. As Barrie has usually been selected for this purpose, I thought it wise to make a change, and for that end corresponded with the E. Z. of Manitou Chapter. The prompt response and hearty acquiescence in my wishes was equalled only by the warmth of the welcome extended to us on our arrival and the excellence of the work done by that Chapter. About 50 Companions were present, a large contingent going from Barrie, including R. E. Comp. MacWatt, and the work was admirably done in the several degrees.

In the afternoon E. Comp. Z. (Dr. Aylesworth) and the officers of Manitou Chapter exemplified the M. M. Degree in an admirable manner, and in the evening the work of the M. E. was beautifully rendered by E. Comp. R. I. Fraser of Signet Chapter, after which E. Comp. J. C. Morgan, Past Z., and the officers of the same Chapter gave the ritual of the Royal Arch in a faultless manner.

The opening and closing in the R. A. was perfectly done by Manitou Chapter. It is to be regretted that my efforts to get some other Chapter in the jurisdiction to exemplify the work of one of the degrees should have met with no success whatever.

Before closing many matters connected with "the work" were discussed in a spirited and thorough manner and the evening was brought most pleasantly to a close by a *recherche* banquet which was much enjoyed by visiting brethren, who were loud in their praise of the Collingwood Companions. Much good to Capitular Masonry will, I feel, result from this meeting.

Grand River Chapter No. 70, Bracebridge. I have visited this Chapter twice; the first time August 1st, 1895, and the second time, June 18th, 1896. On each occasion I had the pleasure of installing the officers before a very fair number of the members. The opening and closing was creditably done, the books are thoroughly well kept, they have added 16 members during my term and they now have several applications. The Chapter is therefore in a healthy condition.

Georgian Chapter No. 56, Owen Sound. It is to be regretted that a town of the size and importance of Owen Sound, with which are associated such honored names in Masonry as McPherson, Creasor, etc., should be in so unsatisfactory a condition with respect to Capitular Masonry. Their meetings have not been very regularly held, there have been no additions to their numbers, and although an invitation was extended to the Chapter to work one of the degrees at Collingwood not only was the invitation declined, but they were absolutely unrepresented at the Chapter of Instruction. McPherson Chapter No. 86, Meaford, is apparently in as bad or worse condition, although I have received some notices of meetings, and their officers were regularly installed February 27th, 1896. Although only a few miles from Collingwood, McPherson No. 86 would have been without representation at the Chapter of Instruction had it not been for the welcome presence of Comp. Dickinson, the J. of the Chapter. However reluctantly, I cannot but coincide with the opinion expressed concerning this Chapter by my predecessors, that the warrant should be withdrawn.

Signet Chapter No. 34, Barrie. This is my own Chapter and I have regularly attended all its meetings. In 1895 these were fairly well attended and good work was done, but in 1896, owing to the frequency with which the Z. was out of town on business, the Chapter made little or no progress. From the character of the officers newly installed, I look with confidence to seeing this Chapter once more take its old place as the banner Chapter of the jurisdiction. I may add that this Chapter did the work of the M. E. M. and the R. A. at the Chapter of Instruction in a thoroughly satisfactory manner.

St. John's Chapter No. 103, North Bay. I wished to visit this Chapter, but received a note from Scribe E. saying that there was nothing in their opinion to justify the expense of so long a journey there. I may, however, say that they have added 9 members, and held their meetings regularly, that their finances are in a very satisfactory condition and the prospects seem very good.

Manitou Chapter No. 27, Collingwood, after some

years of inaction has awakened to a full and vigorous life, and is now easily the banner Chapter of my jurisdiction. I paid an official visit February 1st, being met by about thirty Companions, and the work of the M. M. was satisfactorily given by the E. Z. (Comp. Dr. Aylesworth) and his efficient officers. At the Chapter of Instruction the same officers gave that degree in very finished style. The books are well kept; there were 49 members, of whom twenty have been added during my term; and altogether, the Chapter is in a vigorous and healthy condition.

Taken as a whole, although there are two or three "dark spots" the sun of Capitular Masonry is shining brightly in this district, and I venture to predict a successful movement all along the line in the near future.

All of which is respectfully and fraternally submitted.

GEO. MONKMAN,

Grand Superintendent Georgian District.

ONTARIO DISTRICT No. 10.

To the Most Excellent the Grand Z., Principals and Officers of the Grand Chapter of Canada :

I beg herewith to submit my report on the condition of Capitular Masonry in Ontario District, which is composed of eight good working Chapters, viz.: Pentalpha No. 28, Oshawa; Keystone No. 35, Whitby; Corinthian No. 36, Peterboro; Victoria No. 37, Port Hope; Excelsior No. 45, Colborne; St. John's No. 48, Cobourg; Midland No. 94, Lindsay, and Warkworth No. 110, Warkworth.

I am pleased to report that the year and a half during which I have been Grand Superintendent has been very prosperous and harmonious in Ontario District. I have visited every Chapter in the district and found them in first-class condition, with competent officers and loyal members. They have all got good halls and are financially sound. Every Chapter has increased in membership, making a substantial increase in the district. St. John's Chapter, Cobourg, headed the list with an increase of thirteen. I am also pleased to state that perfect harmony prevails throughout the district, no complaint of any kind having been reported to me.

Pentalpha No. 28, Oshawa. I visited this Chapter on May 28, 1896, and found a very great improvement on the work here since I visited it with R. E. Comp. Quinlan in December, 1894. I wish to congratulate the Chapter on the great progress they have made. There was a fair number of Companions present and two candidates were exalted in a creditable manner. The then Principals did their work very well as also did the other officers. I found their books in first-class order and think we may safely count on Pentalpha now as a good strong working Chapter.

Keystone No. 35, Whitby. Keystone has been for a long time a good Chapter and I found on visiting it on May 29th, 1896, that it was still keeping up the good work it has been noted for. The officers are all competent and the R. A. degree was exemplified in a manner to be expected from them. I had the pleasure of installing the officers at the same meeting, and I must say that I think they will continue to keep their Chapter in the front rank.

Corinthian No. 36, Peterboro. I was very hospitably received by the Companions of Corinthian Chapter when I visited them on March 17, 1896, and it is unnecessary to say that I saw the R. A. Degree exemplified here in a way not expected outside a city Chapter. I found all the officers particularly well up in their work, but was especially impressed by the work done by the Principal Sojourner, Companion Morrow. I think I may safely say he is the best I ever saw do that work. I cannot understand why this Chapter has not increased more in membership than it has in the last year as it is the largest Chapter in our District and has two strong Lodges in the city to draw from. I hope during the year there will be more members taken in.

Victoria No. 37, Port Hope. This Chapter is so near my own that I fully expected when I was elected that I would visit it several times during my term of office. However something always seemed to turn up to prevent my visiting it when arranged that I should do so, and it was not until the evening of January 8th, 1897, that I at last was able to pay this visit. I knew,

however, that they were in excellent condition and able to confer all the degrees in an exemplary manner. They have two Past Grand Superintendents amongst them who are both active R. A. Masons and are, of course a great help to them. I assisted R. E. Companion Quinlan to install their officers and then had the pleasure of seeing the newly installed Z. confer the M. E. M. degree on two candidates. I am satisfied that this Chapter is in good hands and will continue to prosper.

Excelsior No. 45, Colborne. Although Colborne is not a very large place this is the second largest Chapter in the district and as the Companions take a good interest in the work the average attendance is larger than any other of our Chapters. I visited this Chapter twice and on my first visit on the 2nd January 1896, I found the largest turn out to greet me that I met in any visit made by me. I installed the officers of this Chapter and also those of Warkworth on this occasion and had the pleasure of witnessing the Mark Master Degree very creditably conferred. My second visit was made on October 1st 1896 when the R. A. degree was conferred in an almost perfect manner. This Chapter is in a very promising condition and exalted nine Companions during my term of office.

St. John's No. 48, Cobourg. This being my mother Chapter I was of course present at all the meetings held and am able to state with confidence that all the degrees are worked as well here as they can be anywhere. The I. P. Z., E. Comp. Hewson, has made one of the best First Principals the Chapter has ever had and the fact that thirteen Companions have been exalted during his term of office shows that the Chapter is in a flourishing condition. I had the pleasure of installing the new officers on the 18th December, 1896, and am satisfied that they will continue to keep up the reputation of St. John's. There are two applications in the hands of the Committee to begin the new year with and I think we can look forward to another large increase in membership during the coming year.

Midland No. 94, Lindsay. I was very agreeably surprised at the work done by this Chapter on the

occasion of my visit to them on the 21st May, 1896. I had been given to understand that this was a weak Chapter, but I think I may safely say that it has passed out of the list of weak Chapters and think we may look for as good work from Midland in future as any in the district. I must congratulate the Chapter on having such an excellent S. E. (Comp. Patrick). His books are beautifully kept and in first class order.

Warkworth No. 110, Warkworth. I had the pleasure of visiting this the baby Chapter of the district with the M. E. the Grand Z. and we had a treat given us indeed in witnessing the R. A. degree conferred by the officers of Warkworth Chapter. They all did their work in a very excellent way and showed that they had taken a very great interest in what they had to do. This Chapter has exalted eight Companions since the last convocation of Grand Chapter and Ex Comp. Richards and his officers are to be congratulated on the excellent material they have taken in. I was accompanied on this visit by R. E. Comp. R. J. Craig and Comps Albertini, Bounet, Metcalf and McCarty, of St. John's Chapter.

I wish to thank the First Principals and in fact all the Companions of the several Chapters for the kindness and hospitality shown me on the occasion of my visiting them and I wish to thank R. E. Comp. Quinlan, V. E. Comp. Might and the Companions of my own Chapter who accompanied me on many of these visits. In conclusion I sincerely hope that the harmony and good feeling now existing may continue to prevail throughout the District, and I can confidently predict for my successor whoever he may be, the same courtesy from the Companions that has been extended to me.

All of which is fraternally submitted.

A. R. HARGRAFT,
Grand Superintendent Ontario District.

PRINCE EDWARD DISTRICT No. 11.

To the Most Excellent the Grand Z., Principals and Officers of the Grand Chapter of Canada.

I beg to submit my report on the condition of Capitular Masonry in Prince Edward District and have

great pleasure in stating that every Chapter in the District is in good working order and that perfect harmony prevails. I have visited every Chapter once, three twice, and one four times.

Mount Sinai No. 44, Napanee. I visited this Chapter officially on the 29th April, accompanied by Comp. Robert Orr, of Moira Chapter, and received a fraternal welcome. The attendance was very good and the closing ceremonies of the Royal Arch Degree were correctly performed, two candidates being balloted for and being accepted. I had also the pleasure of seeing the degree of M. M. M. conferred in a very creditable manner. The average attendance is good, the Past Principals constant in their attendance and assisting in the work. The present staff of officers under E. Comp. Funnel are well governed in their duties and give promise of becoming excellent workers in the Royal Craft. This Chapter does not deserve to be classed among the weak Chapters, although the membership is very much scattered. It is free of debt and has a bright future in store. R. E. Walters, V. E. Comp. Gerow, and E. Comp. Warner take a deep interest in its welfare. I purpose visiting this Chapter on the 13th January to install the newly elected officers.

Keystone Chapter No. 70, Stirling. I made my official visit to the Chapter on the 20th May, accompanied by Comp. B. A. Fox of Moira Chapter, and found a very large attendance. The M. M. M. Degree was conferred and, with the exception of some awkward floor movements, was very well done. E. Comp. Wensley, although living sixteen miles away from the village, has the work well in hand, and being an enthusiast in Masonic work, has with the able assistance of E. Comp. Shaw, succeeded in creating a lively interest in the Royal Craft. This Chapter was only organized on the 10th December, 1894, and at the date of my visit had 37 members on its roll and a respectable balance in the hands of the Treasurer. I had also the pleasure of seeing this degree again exemplified by Keystone Chapter at the Chapter of Instruction held at Belleville on the 10th December, when the defects alluded to were remedied. I purpose making another visit to this

Chapter on the 20th January for the ceremony of installation.

Prince Edward Chapter No. 31, Picton. I paid an official visit to this Chapter on June 29th, and, as is usual in the records of this Chapter, I was gratified to find a very large attendance. E. Comp. C. C. Spencer, and his officers exemplified the Royal Arch Degree, and I have much pleasure in again recording the excellent work done in this Chapter; from the Principals down the roll every detail is carefully observed and practiced. E. Comp. E. Case fills the office of Scribe E. with much acceptance, and the Mark Register up to date. I was very much pleased to meet M. E. Comp. Donald Ross at the Convocation, who still takes a lively interest in the affairs of the Chapter, especially on constitutional points.

St. Mark's Chapter No. 26, Trenton. Accompanied by E. Comp. Spencer of Prince Edward Chapter and Comp. Fox of Moira Chapter, I visited this Chapter on the 30th of June. I was graciously welcomed by E. Comp. Rev. W. V. Wilkins and E. Comp. D. J. Walker, but, unfortunately, quite a number of the Companions were absent attending law courts. Still, with the assistance of the Companions who accompanied me, the Chapter was duly opened. I accepted the situation and promised to return later in the year, but so far I have been unable to do so. On the 27th October, however, this Chapter was honored by a visit from the M. E. Grand Z. who speaks very highly of the work presented on that occasion.

Moira Chapter No. 7, Belleville. I have been very regular in my attendance in this my mother Chapter, and likewise have attended four times in my official capacity. The election of officers held on December 3rd, 1895, having been declared void by the Grand Z. (owing to the janitor, who was a member of the Chapter, being deprived of a vote at said election) a new election was held under dispensation on January 7th, 1896, which I attended. On February 4th I visited the Chapter and installed the newly elected officers, and again on January 5th, 1897, I attended and performed the same ceremony. Owing to the disturbance which the new

election engendered, very little progress was made until the September Convocation, and now I am pleased to report that harmony reigns supreme. I made my regular official visit on November 3rd last, when the M. M. Degree was exemplified by E. Comp. Rev. D. Bogart, Third Principal. The work was very well done. All the officers were in their places, with an attendance of 40 members. E. Comp. Swinton as Scribe has revised the roll of membership during the year, and has been careful to see that all the names have been recorded in the books of Grand Chapter. After the installation of officers on the 5th, the newly elected officers, to show their proficiency in the Royal Arch, immediately conferred the M. M. M. degree in a very creditable manner.

The principal event held in the District was a Chapter of Instruction convened at Belleville on December 10th, 1896, and I can safely say that it was the first gathering of the Royal Craft ever held in the district. The attendance was large and every Chapter was well represented. It was a matter of profound regret that no Grand Chapter officer was present to honor the occasion. It is no incentive for Chapters to meet in joint convocation and exemplify the degrees in the presence of the Grand Superintendent of the District who has already inspected the work in the several Chapters.

I would respectfully suggest that in arranging for Chapters of Instruction in my district they should be under the direction of a Grand Lodge officer other than the Superintendent of the district in which the same is held, or under the joint direction of say three Grand Superintendents—the Superintendent of the district in which it is to be held, and the Superintendents of the two districts adjoining it. Such a tribunal would create a healthy rivalry to excel in the works. If Chapters of Instruction are to be of any practical value, they should be held under some impartial authority outside of the District.

The Mark Master was opened by Keystone Chapter No. 70, Stirling, E. Comp. Winsley and the officers exemplified the degree in a very creditable manner. This is a new Chapter and the work received many

flattering remarks. M. E. Master Degree was assigned to Mount Sinai Chapter No. 44, Napanee, who undertook the work almost at the last moment, and although some of the regular officers could not attend, E. Comp. Fennel conferred the degree in a very pleasing and impressive manner. The floor movements were especially well done.

The Royal Arch was opened at 8.30, p. m., by Prince Edward Chapter No. 31, Picton, E. Comp. C. C. Spencer as Z., and a full staff of officers. The work in this degree was perfect in every detail and was fully enjoyed by the large audience. Prince Edward Chapter has fully earned its title to the banner Chapter of the district.

At the conclusion of the ceremonies Moira Chapter, Belleville, entertained the visiting Companions to a banquet in the new dining hall when a very profitable day was brought to a close amidst good fellowship, speech and song.

I have received no forms for summary of work done in the several Chapters and presume they have been sent forward by the Chapters direct to Grand Scribe E. In conclusion I have to thank Ex. Comp. Henry Pringle, Moira Chapter, Belleville, for his able assistance in conducting the Chapter of Instruction, also to the Principals, and Companions in the district for many courtesies extended to me, and I sincerely trust that the same loyal assistance may be extended to my successor and may peace and harmony and good fellowship abide with you for ever more.

All of which is respectfully submitted,

WM. WEBSTER,
Grand Superintendent Prince Edward District.

ST. LAWRENCE DISTRICT No. 12.

To the Most Excellent the Grand Z., Principals and Officers of the Grand Chapter of Canada :

I have the honor to submit my report on the Condition of Capitular Masonry in the St. Lawrence District, and at this time beg leave to express my most sincere

thanks to the Excellent Companions who elected me to the high office of Grand Superintendent at the last Convocation of Grand Chapter.

The district is composed of the following Chapters, viz: Ancient Frontenac and Cataragui No. 1, Grenville No. 22, Sussex No. 5, Maitland No. 68 St. Lawrence No. 100, St. John's No. 112, and Covenant No. 113.

Harmony has prevailed throughout the whole district, not having one question submitted to me for investigation during my whole term of office.

I intended when elected to visit every Chapter in the district, but owing to business engagements was prevented from so doing, and when convenient for me, some of the Chapters could not get a meeting.

I paid an official visit to Ancient Frontenac and Cataragui on Oct. 20th, 1896, and was cordially received. Twenty-five Companions were present, including R. E. Comp. Adams and Wilkinson. There being no work the Chapter was opened and closed in the several degrees in a highly satisfactory manner. I was informed this was the second meeting since installation as the Chapter was called off during the summer. Four applications were received on this night. Scribe E's. books are well and carefully kept. This old Chapter is in a flourishing condition financially and otherwise.

Grenville No. 22. Visited this my mother Chapter officially on Nov. 10th and conferred M. M. M. and Most Excellent Master's Degrees. This Chapter is increasing favorably, having to depend almost wholly on Central Lodge for its members. The officers are not as well versed in the work as they should be, but I feel assured those elected for the ensuing year intend to get the work up thoroughly. I installed the officers on the 28th December. The books and finances are in a good condition.

Sussex No. 59. I held a Chapter of Instruction pursuant to a command from the M. E. Grand Z. in Sussex Chapter room on their regular night of meeting Nov. 20, 1896. There were 50 Companions present including R. E. Comp. Adams, P. G. S. The M. M. M. degree was exemplified by the officers of Sussex Chap-

ter, E. Comp. John Menish acting as W. M. and was done in a prompt and impressive manner. The M. E. Degree was conferred by the officers of St. Lawrence Chapter R. E. Comp. Gale acting as W. M. and acquitted themselves very creditably. The Royal Arch Degree was conferred by the Officers of Ancient Frontenac and Cataraqui with E. Comp. W. Thompson as First Principal. The work throughout was of the highest character and gave evidence of careful study and close attention to details, all the officers being exceptionally well skilled. Sussex Chapter is doing well. Books well kept and finances in good shape.

Visited Maitland No. 68, Oct. 23rd, 1896. Eighteen Companions present including Comp. Houston from Smith's Falls, who drove twenty miles to attend. The M. E. and R. A. Degrees were conferred in a creditable manner. The officers require some practice. Scribe E's books well kept but too much arrearages of dues. This Chapter is in a healthy state.

St. Lawrence No. 100. Was unable to visit this Chapter. Called a meeting but owing to business arrangements of Z. and some of the other officers, they were unable to attend. I did not go as I understood there would be no meeting. I was then called away myself, but understood this Chapter has had a fair amount of work during the year and is in a flourishing condition.

St. John's No. 112. Visited this Chapter on Dec. 22nd, 1896. A goodly number present, it being the election of officers. I am sorry to say that this Chapter has not progressed during the past year as it should. I think it is on account of the hard times and the price of admission being \$20. I think there is a move to reduce the fees. If this is done and the officers take more interest in its welfare I see no reason why this Chapter should not flourish. Books are well and neatly kept.

Covenant No. 113. Owing to business engagements I was unable to visit this Chapter, but from information received I am led to believe it is working well and that the prospects are bright for the future.

In concluding my report I would express my thanks

to all the Companions for the kindness and assistance extended to me during my term of office.

All of which is respectfully and fraternally submitted.

JOHN T. GRAHAM,

Grand Superintendent St. Lawrence District.

OTTAWA DISTRICT, No. 13.

To the Most Excellent Grand Z., Principals and Officers of the Grand Chapter of Canada :

I have the honor to present herewith the first report on the condition of Capitular Masonry in the Ottawa District.

At the regular Convocation of Grand Chapter, held in the city of Toronto, July 16th, A. D. 1895, A. I. 2425, it was suggested by R. E. Comp. James Adams, Grand Superintendent of Central District No. 12, that Central District, owing to its numerical strength and extent of territory should be divided into two districts, one to be named St. Lawrence District No. 12, the other Ottawa District No. 13. St. Lawrence to comprise seven Chapters, viz., Ancient Frontenac and Cataraqui No. 1, Kingston; Sussex, 52, Brockville, St. Lawrence No. 100, Brockville; Maitland No. 68, North Augusta; Grenville No. 22, Prescott; St. John's No. 112, Morrisburg; Covenant No. 113, Farran's Point. And Ottawa to comprise five Chapters, viz.: Carleton No. 16, Ottawa; Maple No. 116, Carleton Place; Granite No. 61, Almonte; Bonnechere No. 214, Renfrew; Pembroke No. 58, Mattawa. I am pleased as well as the majority of the Companions in this end of old Central District, that Grand Chapter in its wisdom has seen fit to comply with the above recommendation, which will without doubt be beneficial to Capitular Masonry in this north-eastern section.

Before proceeding further, I must sincerely thank the Companions of Ottawa District No. 13 for the distinguished privilege conferred upon me in electing me to preside over its councils as their first Grand Superintendent, and I appreciate the position all the more as it was unsought, in fact never having been approached regarding the matter, and not even being present at the

meeting of Grand Chapter. It also afforded me a great deal of pleasure to be installed into office in my mother Chapter, Carleton No. 16, by R. E. Comp. David Taylor, Past Grand Superintendent of old Central District No. 12, at the regular Convocation in September, 1895.

Peace and harmony have prevailed in this district during my term of office; no questions of moment requiring a ruling or investigation were submitted. The reception tendered by the Companions on the occasion of my official visits, were cordial and enjoyable, due honor being paid to the dignity of the office.

I granted four dispensations in each case to attend divine service, viz.: Granite Chapter No. 61, on September 1st, 1895, and October 25th, 1896; Maple Chapter No. 116, on June 21st, 1896, and Bonnechere Chapter No. 114, on June 28th, 1896.

Carleton Chapter No. 16, Ottawa. This being my mother Chapter, and as I am a regular attendant at nearly all Convocations, I only visited once in an official capacity, which was at the installation of officers January 17th, 1896, consequently I had ample opportunities to judge of the work. During the first six months of my term the work was most admirably rendered, but I cannot say so much for the last twelve, as it has not been up to the old standard. So if Carleton Chapter wants to retain its past reputation it will have to look well to its laurels, or else be outstripped in the race by some of the younger Chapters in the district. Steady progress in new members is being made and I trust the quality of material received will prove as beneficial in the future as it has in the past. The attendance of Companions is fair, and one feature worthy of note is the interest taken by the number of Past Z's who turn out to lend a helping hand if necessary.

At the request of the Most Excellent the Grand Z., J. Ross Robertson, a Chapter of Instruction for the District was arranged to be held in Ottawa December 9th, 1896. All arrangements were complete for a successful rendering of the work in the several degrees, but a most unfortunate circumstance prevented the above being carried out, which was the entire destruction by fire on December 3rd, 1896, of the Masonic Hall. Not

a vestige of the Chapter outfit was saved. However it is a subject for congratulation that they had a very comfortable insurance, which will enable them to refurnish, but many articles are gone which cannot be replaced as they had been in possession of the Chapter from its earliest days, 1860, when it was established. In the meantime temporary quarters have been secured and the work will proceed without interruption. Arrangements for new Masonic rooms had been completed shortly before the fire and will be ready for occupancy early in the fall of 1897.

To show the friendliness existing towards Carleton Chapter by the other Chapters in the district, I have to mention the fact that within three days after our great calamity, I received the kindest fraternal expressions and also offers of assistance from Maple, Bonnehochere and Pembroke Chapters. May this good feeling long continue to exist in the district.

Maple Chapter No. 116, Carleton Place. This young Chapter still keeps up its reputation for producing good work, and from the quality of the material comprising it there is not the least doubt the standard will be sustained. As I am a member of this Chapter I had frequent opportunities of seeing the work exemplified other than on the occasion of my official visit, which was on January 7th, 1896, when I installed the new officers, being assisted by the following Companions from Carleton Chapter No. 16, viz.: R. E. Comp. E. B. Butterworth, V. E. Comp. W. G. S. Reynolds, and E. Comp. S. A. Lake. The unpleasantness that occurred two years ago has blown over, and now peace and harmony prevail, insuring bright prospects for the future.

Granite Chapter No. 61, Almonte. In order to accommodate the Grand Superintendent this Chapter very kindly called a special Convocation on May 18th, 1896, which was fairly well attended. I witnessed the exaltation of two candidates to the Royal Arch Degree, the work being very creditably performed by the officers of the Chapter, assisted by E. Comp. D. H. McIntosh of Maple Chapter No. 116, Carleton Place. A few years ago I had the pleasure of visiting this

Chapter, and I noted the marked improvement that has taken place, but there is still room for further progress, which no doubt will be accomplished by the younger Companions who are coming to the front, ably assisted in their endeavors by Past Z's. Munroe, Pollock and Hall. R. E. Comp. David Taylor accompanied me on this occasion.

Bonnechere Chapter No. 114, Renfrew. I visited this Chapter in an official capacity on Jan. 20th, 1896, accompanied by R. E. Comps. David Taylor and E. B. Butterworth, also E. Comp. S. A. Lake, all from Carleton Chapter No. 16, who assisted at the installation of the officers which took place at this Convocation. After the completion of the above ceremony the M. E. M. degree was most ably exemplified by the newly installed Z., E. Comp. Edward McKay, assisted by the other officers of the Chapter, who are also well up in their work. The labors of the evening being ended, the Companions of Bonnechere Chapter entertained the visitors in a hospitable manner.

On May 12th, 1896, this Chapter sustained a severe blow in the sudden demise of the Presiding First Principal, E. Comp. Edward MacKay, a Companion who had endeared himself to his brethren both at home and abroad, and whose memory will long be cherished by those who had the privilege of his acquaintance. The vacancy thus caused has been filled by the election of E. Comp. James Craig, I. P. Z., who is well qualified to carry on the work.

Pembroke Chapter No. 58, Mattawa. I regret exceedingly that I have not been able to pay this Chapter a visit. On two occasions I had plans matured, but unforeseen circumstances cropped up which prevented me. From information received, I am sorry to state that for some time back this Chapter has been passing through a stage of adversity, caused to a large extent by Companions removing from the town, and also to its scattered membership. During the month of November the presiding 1st Principal, E. Comp. J. D. Sousa, removed to the North West Territory, which was another calamity. However there are good Companions and true left who have the welfare of the Chapter

at heart, and intend putting their shoulder to the wheel and with the new blood recently added there is no doubt but their efforts will be crowned by success in the near future, and that brighter days are dawning for Pembroke Chapter.

Before closing my report, I have to thank the several Scribe E's with whom I had correspondence for the prompt manner in which they attended to their duties, also the Companions of Carleton Chapter who, at considerable inconvenience, accompanied me on my official visits. And once more I desire to thank all the Companions of Ottawa District No. 13, for the valuable assistance most cheerfully rendered by them on all occasions.

All of which is fraternally submitted.

W. B. MCARTHUR,

Grand Superintendent Ottawa District.

ALGOMA DISTRICT No. 14.

To the Most Excellent the Grand Z., Principals and Officers of the Grand Chapter of Canada :

I have the honor to submit my report on the Condition of Royal Arch Masonry in the Algoma District.

Although there are only four Chapters within the limits of this district, yet when one considers that these are scattered over a tract of territory one thousand miles in length, the difficulties a Grand Superintendent meets with in attempting to fulfill the duties of his office can easily be understood. I regret that I am unable to give as glowing an account of the Condition of Masonry in this part of the jurisdiction as I would wish. The Chapters at Sault Ste. Marie and Sudbury are prosperous but I have been unable either to discover or arouse any life in the other two.

Golden No. 90, Rat Portage, judging from the report of my predecessor, has practically been dead for some time, and I have been unable to get any response from its officers, or to learn that any work is being done by this Chapter whatever.

Shuniah No. 82, Port Arthur. I have been unable to get any response from this Chapter either, and

throughout my whole term of office have never been able to elicit a reply to my communications. I have frequently called the attention of the officers to Section 5 of Article 7 of the Constitution, and have also requested them to arrange for a meeting of the Chapter at which I could make my official visit, but have waited in vain for a response to my communications. There is ample material for a Chapter at this point, and I am at a loss to understand the conduct of the officers.

Tuscan Chapter 95, Sudbury. I visited this Chapter on the 4th of February last and took part in the installation of its officers, I also had the pleasure of witnessing the exemplification of the Royal Arch Degree in a most creditable manner. This Chapter holds meetings regularly and is doing well; its officers are energetic, capable and ambitious, and I predict a brilliant future for Tuscan Chapter.

Algonquin Chapter 102, Sault Ste Marie. This my own Chapter also holds meetings regularly and is doing well, and although it has suffered considerably during the past year by the removal of some of its officers and Companions, yet the interest in the work has been kept up, fair progress has been made, and the success of this Chapter is assured.

All of which is fraternally submitted.

W. H. HEARST,
Grand Superintendent Algoma District.

SUPPLEMENTARY REPORT.

Since forwarding my report herein I have received a communication from Shuniah Chapter No. 82, Port Arthur, explaining that my failure to get replies to my communications from the officers of that Chapter was owing to the fact that the Scribe E. of that Chapter had been away from home during the greater part of the year, and that the Z. being an employee of the Canadian Pacific Railway, was also necessarily absent from home a great deal.

I am now instructed, however, that this Chapter has elected a full staff of officers for the present year, all residents of the town of Port Arthur, and that in the future meetings will be held regularly. I am also

instructed that this Chapter is in a good position financially, and that its prospects generally for a successful future are bright.

I regret that it will now be impossible for me to pay an official visit to this Chapter before the meeting of Grand Chapter.

Dated this 11th January, 1897.

W. H. HEARST,
Grand Superintendent Algoma District.

MANITOBA DISTRICT, No. 15.

To the Most Excellent the Grand Z., Principals and Officers of the Grand Chapter of Canada.

I beg to submit my report on the condition of Capitular Masonry in the Manitoba District.

This district comprises five Chapters and one under dispensation : Prince Rupert No. 52, Winnipeg ; Corinthian No. 101, Boissevain ; Signet No. 105, Winnipeg ; Alberta No. 106, Calgary ; Zeradatha No. 111, Morden ; North Star U. D., Edmonton.

Zeradatha No. 111, Morden. I had the pleasure of helping to institute this Chapter, and last January I made it my official visit. During my visit I installed the newly-elected officers for the ensuing year. After the installation the Mark and Royal Arch Degrees were worked by the officers in a very creditable manner, and there is no doubt that Ex. Comp. Judge Locke, First Principal of the Chapter, and Past First Principal Allan Stewart have the work second to none in this jurisdiction.

I had the pleasure of installing the officers of my own Chapter, Prince Rupert No. 52, and of Signet No. 105. These Chapters held a joint meeting for that purpose, showing a good friendly feeling existing between these Chapters.

In August last I made my official visit to Signet No. 105, Winnipeg. The Royal Arch was worked in a very pleasing manner, and no fault could be found with the officers in the discharge of their duties.

On October 6, 1896, I had the pleasure of officially visiting my own Chapter, Prince Rupert No. 52, Winnipeg. There was no candidate that night; the candidate failed to put in an appearance; but as I attend regularly I can speak for Prince Rupert that their work is generally good, and the officers well skilled in all the degrees.

Keystone No. 99, Portage la Prairie. I wrote this Chapter several times arranging for my official visit and on each occasion was requested not to come. I made final arrangements and several Past Principals and Companions of Winnipeg agreed to go with me and do the work when I accidentally heard that the officers had handed in the charter. The only reason I know for their action is that a number of the Companions of Keystone preferred belonging to either of the Winnipeg Chapters, and until there are more Masons in the neighborhood of Portage la Prairie we need not expect to have a live Chapter there.

Corinthian No. 101, at Boissevain, Alberta No. 106, Calgary, and North Star U. D., Edmonton, are Chapters I was unable to visit. To do so would require over two thousand four hundred miles of travel. I could not afford the time and expense, nor would I allow them to pay it as they would not receive sufficient benefit for the outlay. I have had several communications from Alberta Companions who say the Chapter is doing well, and from communications and meeting notices received from North Star they are doing good work.

The Winnipeg Chapters are fortunate in having very commodious rooms in the new Masonic Temple. The Royal Arch Masons took their full share of the responsibility of erecting this magnificent building which will stand to generations yet unborn a monument of Masonic enterprise.

All of which is fraternally submitted.

JAMES HADDOCK,
Grand Superintendent Manitoba District.

BRITISH COLUMBIA DISTRICT No. 16.

To the Most Excellent the Grand Z, Principals and Officers of the Grand Chapter of Canada :

In submitting my report on the condition of Capitular Masonry in the Province of British Columbia for the past year I regret to say that, contrary to my expectation, we have been unable to form a new Chapter in this district, although in my last annual report I stated that there were good prospects of at least one being started in 1896, but from one circumstance or another, principally owing to the hard times, the Companions have been slow in coming forward to enter into an undertaking that would require the expenditure of some considerable sum of money. I hope, however, that my successor will be able to report at your next Annual Convocation the addition of at least one, if not two new Chapters in this Province.

I am very hopeful that a dispensation will be asked for in the near future for the formation of a Chapter in Kaslo, a mining town in the Kootenay country. I have had considerable correspondence with E. Comp. Chipman who is D. D. G. M. for the Grand Lodge of British Columbia at that point, who informs me that the Companions are only waiting to get a suitable hall to apply for a dispensation. This he expects will be accomplished during the present month.

The District of British Columbia still remains with but one Chapter working under the jurisdiction of the Grand Chapter of Canada (Vancouver 98). I have visited this Chapter frequently during the year and find that it is doing good work. The membership is increasing rapidly, and generally it is in a flourishing condition, as its annual report will show.

In accordance with advice received from the Most Excellent Grand Z., a Chapter of Instruction was held in Vancouver on Wednesday the 16th of December, a large number of Companions being present. The three degrees were exemplified by the following officers:—The “Mark,” E. Comp. G. H. Gatewood, J; the M. E. M., E. Comp. H. H. Watson, Acting H.; the Royal Arch, E. Comp. P. McNaughton, Z.; Comp. T. Sisson, Principal Sojourner.

The work was done in a manner to reflect credit on the Companions engaged in it. The ritual was carefully followed and impressively rendered, and altogether the work was very satisfactory.

While the attendance of the Companions at the different meetings of the Chapter was fair, there still remains room for considerable improvement. I was very much struck with the plan adopted by the S. E. of the Chapter, Comp. S. Buxton, to improve the attendance. He has prepared a list of all the Companions, with a record opposite each name of the number of meetings each has attended during the year. The list will be printed in the annual report and a copy forwarded to each Companion. This, I think, will have an excellent effect, and will no doubt cause a better attendance during the present year. I was surprised to see by the list that thirty Companions residing within the city had not attended a meeting during the year, while a number of others had only attended one or two. I trust, therefore, that the plan adopted by Scribe E. Buxton will spur the Companions on to greater efforts to attend the meetings more regularly in the future than in the past, thereby lending encouragement to the officers who are already spending so much of their time in furthering the interests of Masonry in general and of Vancouver Royal Arch in particular. An effort on the part of all the Companions will insure making this Chapter not only a credit to the Grand Chapter but also to its officers and members.

I cannot close without referring to the progress made by the Vancouver Chapter since it was taken hold of by the younger men some two or three years ago. I say frankly that the prosperity and the present standing of the Chapter is largely due to their efforts. Should any of the Chapters in the jurisdiction be in a languishing condition, I would say, just give the young Companions a chance, and note the result. You will never regret it.

Wishing the M. E. Z., Principals and Companions a happy and prosperous new year.

I remain faithfully and fraternally yours,

WM. DOWNIE,
Grand Superintendent British Columbia District.

ANNUAL STATEMENT 31ST DECEMBER, 1896.

T. SARGANT, G. S. E., IN ACCOUNT WITH GRAND CHAPTER.

No. 1—An. Frontenac aud Cataragui.....\$ 27 73	No. 67—Enterprise.... 12 20
" 2—The Hiram..... 70 70	" 68—Maitland..... 22 33
" 3—St. John's..... 113 20	" 70—Grand River.. 49 80
" 4—S. An. & S. John 89 90	" 71—Pr. of Wales.. 19 80
" 5—St. George's.... 71 00	" 73—Erie 21 60
" 6—St. John's..... 85 30	" 75—St. Clair..... 6 40
" 7—Moirs..... 16 90	" 76—Mt. Nebo..... 8 19
" 7—King Solomon's 110 80	" 77—Occident..... 47 70
" 15—Wawanosh..... 55 80	" 78—Minnewawa... 33 30
" 16—Carleton 38 60	" 79—Orient 27 60
" 18—Cxford..... 27 50	" 89—Ark..... 141 80
" 19—Mt. Moriah.... 29 20	" 81—Aylmer..... 12 40
" 22—Grenville..... 19 50	" 82—Shuniah..... 4 90
" 23—Ezra 21 00	" 83—Ionic..... 8 50
" 24—Tecumseh..... 99 90	" 84—Lebanon 14 40
" 26—St. Marks..... 6 60	" 85—Exeter..... 14 05
" 27—Manitou..... 65 40	" 86—Macpherson... 6 80
" 29—McCallum..... 11 60	" 88—Macnabb..... 2 20
" 30—Huron..... 57 40	" 91—Antiquity.... 32 50
" 31—Prince Edward. 55 00	" 94—Midland..... 7 30
" 32—Waterloo..... 19 70	" 85—Tuscan. 24 00
" 34—Signet..... 28 40	" 98—Vancouver.... 42 80
" 35—Keystone..... 12 10	" 99—Keystone. 14 20
" 36—Corinthian..... 39 00	" 100—St. Lawrence.. 9 40
" 37—Victoria..... 38 60	" 102—Algonquin ... 8 20
" 40—Guelph..... 11 60	" 103—St. John's.... 36 50
" 41—Harris..... 23 90	" 104—White Oak.... 4 80
" 44—Mt. Sinai..... 26 50	" 105—Signet 25 50
" 45—Excelsior..... 39 20	" 106—Alberta 13 80
" 46—St. James..... 20 30	" 110—Warkworth... 6 70
" 47—Wellington.... 26 40	" 111—Zeredatha.... 6 60
" 48—St. John's..... 15 70	" 112—St. John's.... 25 10
" 52—Prince Rupert's 68 70	" 113—Covenant..... 20 20
" 53—Bruce..... 81 60	" 114—Bonnechere... 21 40
" 54—Palestine..... 52 50	" 115—Brant..... 13 30
" 55—Niagara..... 11 50	" 116—Maple..... 28 35
" 56—Georgian..... 6 80	U.D.—Berlin 45 40
" 58—Pembroke..... 3 80	U.D.—North Star.... 25 00
" 59—Sussex..... 39 40	U.D.—King Cyrus.... 25 00
" 61—Granite..... 3 00	Sale of Safe..... 95 00
" 62—York 18 60	Interest on Deposits... 413 64
" 63—Havelock 6 80	Toronto Trusts 198 76
" 64—Wilson 9 10	Industrial Bond 550 46
" 65—St. Paul's..... 21 10	
" 66—Malloch..... 7 60	
	\$3,876 61

OPENING CHAPTERS.

By direction of the M. E. the Grand Z., and assisted by the Grand Supt. of the Wellington District, R. E. Comp. Mahoney, I organized Berlin R. A. Chapter, U. D., on 16th April, 1896, and installed their officers.

OBITUARY.

We mourn the loss by death of the following Companions who were prominent amongst the workers of the Royal Craft:

R. E. Comp. T. F. Blackwood, Toronto.

R. E. Comp. F. W. Gearing. G. S., Stratford.

During the year the following notifications of the decease of Companions in sister jurisdictions have been received by me:

M. E. Comp. Charles U. S. Levy, P. G. H. P., Maryland, 8th Dec. 1895.

M. E. Comp. Q. Ellis Coombes, P. G. H. P., Texas, 25th Nov., 1895.

M. E. Comp. Rev. G. W. Dane, P. G. H. P., Virginia, 24th Dec., 1895.

M. E. Comp. H. F. Gillette, P. G. H. P., Texas, 25th April, 1896.

M. E. Comp. Michael Nesbit, P. G. H. P., Pennsylvania, 7th May, 1896.

M. E. Comp. A. T. Longley, P. G. H. P., Washington, D. C., 23rd February, 1896.

Comp. L. G. Stephens, G. Sec., Washington, D. C., 17th May, 1896.

M. E. Comp. O. A. Bassett, P. G. H. P., Kansas, 19th July, 1896.

Comp. Alex. McGregor, G. S., Michigan, 2nd August, 1896.

M. E. Comp. John S. Castle, P. G. H. P., Connecticut, 11th November, 1896.

Comp. Rev. T. I. Melesh, G. Chap., Ohio, 11th November, 1896.

R. E. Comp. Angus Grant, P. G. H., 15th August, 1896.

R. E. Comp. James Wrigley, P. D. G. H. P., Texas, 16th May, 1896.

Which were duly acknowledged by me.

WARRANT TO DISPLACE ONE DESTROYED BY FIRE.

Carleton No. 16, Ottawa.

GRAND REPRESENTATIVES.

The following Companions, upon the recommendation of the Most. E. Grand Z., have been appointed Grand Representatives of foreign Grand Chapters near the Grand Chapter of Canada :

R. E. Comp. W. B. McArthur, Ottawa, Grand Chapter of Alabama.

R. E. Comp. J. Baker, Stratford, Grand Chapter of Oregon, re-appointed.

R. E. Comp. A. Patterson, Toronto, Grand Chapter of Virginia, re-appointed.

The following Grand Chapters have abolished the appointment of Grand Representatives :

Grand Chapter of Washington.

Grand Chapter of Tennessee.

Upon the recommendation of the M. E. Grand High Priest of the respective Grand Chapters the following appointments have been made by the M. E. Grand Z. as our Representatives :

R. E. Comp. Geo. Lopaz, jr., Houston, Grand Chapter of Texas.

R. E. Comp. S. A. Perrot, Van Buren, Grand Chapter of Arkansas.

R. E. Comp. A. J. Wallace, Durand, Grand Chapter of Wisconsin.

R. E. Comp. Rev. Geo. H. Ray, Lynchburg, Grand Chapter of Virginia.

REVISION OF BY-LAWS.

The M. E. the Grand Z. has examined and approved of the following By-laws :

Prince Rupert, Winnipeg, 20th September, 1896.

Tecumseh, Stratford, 20th November, 1896.

Signet, Winnipeg, 20th March, 1896.

The M. E. Grand Z. has examined, revised and approved of amendments to the By-laws of the following Chapters :

Manitou, Collingwood, 22nd May, 1896.
Corinthian, Peterboro, 22nd May, 1896.
Keystone, Whitby, 12th December, 1896.
Vancouver, Vancouver, 12th December, 1896.
Harris, Ingersoll, 16th December, 1896.
Signet, Barrie, 2nd March, 1896.

DISPENSATIONS FOR NEW CHAPTERS.

Under the direction of the M. E. Grand Z. the following dispensations have been issued to institute new Chapters :

Berlin, U. D., Berlin.
North Star, U. D., Edmonton, Alberta.
King Cyrus, U. D., Leamington.

DISPENSATIONS.

By the instruction of the M. E. the Grand Z. I have issued the following dispensations :

To elect at other than regular meeting, 9.
To wear Masonic clothing, 3.
To install Z. not H., 6.
To install H. not J., 10.
To install other than regular meeting, 2.
To confer degrees on Serving Brother, 2.

HUGH MURRAY, GRAND TREASURER, IN ACCOUNT WITH GRAND
CHAPTER, ROYAL ARCH MASONS.

1895.		<i>Dr.</i>		
July 13.		To balance as per statement at this date....	\$19365	89
Nov. 28.		" Grand Scribe E, interest on bank ac't...	271	59
1896.				
Feb. 3.	"	"	"	436 50
"	"	"	"	71 25
May 29.	"	"	interest on bank account	140 66
June 15.	"	"	"	210 46
"	"	"	"	63 76
Nov. 30.	"	"	interest on bank account	1 39
"	"	"	"	95 00
"	"	"	"	259 00
Dec. 15.	"	"	"	340 00
1897.				
Jan. 6.	"	"	"	63 75
"	"	"	"	620 00
"	22.	"	"	510 00
"	25.	"	"	400 00
"	"	"	"	116 00
"	26.	"	"	277 25

\$23242 50

1895.		<i>Cr.</i>		
July 31.	By Order	689, Rolph Smith & Co., Certificates	\$ 40	75
"	"	690, Hunter, Rose & Co	26	50
"	"	693, M. E. C. J. R. Robertson, Post.	25	75
"	"	688, "	250	00
"	"	687, R.E.C., G. J. Bennett, For. Cor.	50	00
"	"	692, Scribe E. advance on Incidentals	100	00
"	"	691, " balance of Incidentals	10	24
"	"	694, " Cablegram to Australia	22	88
"	"	695, Mrs. S. H. Blondheim, Be. Grant	15	00
Aug. 31.	"	701, Comp. Arch. Couper, "	25	00
"	"	698, Children J. G. Burns, "	15	00
"	"	707, Comp. Wm. McCaddie, "	10	00
"	"	697, Mrs. W. B. Simpson	20	00
"	"	700, Orphans, S. Waltho	15	00
"	"	703, Mrs. R. Ramsay, "	15	00
"	"	704, Mrs. W. B. Wallace, "	15	00
"	"	699, Mrs. T. D. Harington, "	20	00
"	"	696, Mrs. John Moore, "	5	00
"	"	706, Comp. John Munroe, "	20	00
"	"	708, Comp. J. H. Pritchard, G. Janitor	5	00
"	"	706, Comp. C. R. Barber, Be. Grant.	15	00
"	"	705, Wm. John Vaux, "	10	00
Sep. 30.	"	709, Grand Scribe E., Salary.. ..	175	00
"	"	711, Rolph, Smith & Co., Certificates	100	00
"	"	712, Alex. Dixon, Bond for Grand Scribe E. and Grand Treasurer	20	00

Oct. 31.	"	714, McPherson & Drope Proceedings	340 95
"	"	715, Hunter, Rose & Co., Printing..	202 00
"	"	710, Grand Treasurer, Salary.....	12 50
Nov. 30.	"	702, Orphans M. McPhail, Be. Grant	10 00
Dec. 31.	"	723, Mrs. McLeod,	10 00
"	"	713, Comp. D. Henderson, engrossing	20 00
"	"	717, Grand Scribe, Salary	175 00
"	"	718, Mrs. Blondheim, Ben. Grant....	15 00
"	"	722, Comp. Arch. Couper,	25 00
"	"	727, Mrs. John Vaux,	10 00
"	"	721, Children, J. G. Burns,	15 00
"	"	722, Mrs. S. Waltho,	15 00
"	"	720, Mrs. W. B. Simpson,	20 00
"	"	730, Mrs. W. McCaddie	10 00
"	"	725, Mrs. R. Ramsay,	15 00
"	"	724, Orphans M. McPhail,	20 00
"	"	726, Mrs. W. B. Wallace,	15 00
"	"	719, Mrs. John Munroe,	5 00
"	"	701, Mother of Donald McLeod,	10 00
"	"	716, Grand Treasurer, Salary	12 50
"	"	731, Toronto Industrial School, to buy \$17000 bonds.....	17680 00
"	"	729, Comp. D. R. Barber, Be. grant	15 00
"	"	722, Mrs. T. D. Harington,	20 00
"	"	727, Comp. John Munroe,	20 00
1896.			
April 30.	"	732, Grand Scribe E., Salary.....	175 00
"	"	737, R. Darling & Co., Office Safe.	115 00
July 31.	"	739, Grand Scribe E. Salary.....	175 00
"	"	733, Grand Treasurer, Salary.....	12 50
"	"	738, Grand Treasurer,	12 50
Oct. 30.	"	744, Mrs. T. D. Harington, B. grant	20 00
"	"	755, Alex. Dixon, Bonds	20 00
"	"	748, Mrs. R. Ramsay, Be. grant...	15 00
Dec. 31.	"	752, Comp. John Munroe,	20 00
"	"	757, Grand Treasurer, Salary	12 50
"	"	756, Grand Scribe,	175 00
"	"	734, Roaf & Roaf, Legal Expenses	15 00
"	"	743, Children J. G. Burns, B. grant	15 00
1897.			
Jan. 25.	"	750, Mrs. John Vaux,	10 00
"	"	859, Grand Scribe E., Salary.....	175 00
"	"	758, Grand Treasurer,	12 50
"	"	742, Mrs. W. B. Simpson, Be. grant	20 00
"	"	746, Comp. Arch. Couper,	25 00
"	"	749, Mrs. W. B. Wallace,	15 00
"	"	736, Rolph Smith & Co., Certificates	112 00
"	"	735, Hunter, Rose & Co., Printing	46 00

 \$20917 07

STATEMENT OF ASSETS OF GRAND CHAPTER AT 25TH JAN., 1897.

Bond, Toronto General Trust Co., @ 4 %.....	\$ 3000 00
Bonds, Toronto Industrial School, @ 4 %.....	17000 00
Cash in Canadian Bank of Commerce.....	2325 43

\$22325 43

CANADIAN BANK OF COMMERCE,

HAMILTON, 25th January, 1897.

We hereby certify that the above named bonds are in the custody of this Bank for safe keeping on account of Hugh Murray, Grand Treasurer of the Grand Chapter, and that the balance at the credit of the said Hugh Murray, as Grand Treasurer of the Grand Chapter, on the books of the bank at the close of business at this date is two thousand three hundred and twenty-five dollars and forty-three cents (\$2,325.43).

Bonds\$20,000.00
 Cash 2,325.43

D. MACGILLIVRAY,
for Manager.
 ADAM HOPE,
for Accountant.

Fraternally submitted.

HUGH MURRAY,
Grand Treasurer.

It was moved by R. E. Comp. M. Walsh, seconded by R. E. Comp. W. G. Reid, and

Resolved, That the statement for eighteen months of the Grand Scribe E. and Grand Treasurer be received and referred to the Executive Committee for audit and report thereon at the present Convocation.

R. E. Comp. G. J. Bennett, Chairman of Committee on Foreign Correspondence, presented the report of the Committee, which on motion of R. E. Comp. M. Walsh, seconded by R. E. Comp. W. G. Reid, was received and ordered to be printed as an appendix to the Proceedings.

The Grand Chapter directed the Grand Scribe E. to send the following telegram to to the Grand Lodge of A. F. and A. M. in session in Montreal:

J. FRED. MASSEY, Grand Master,
 Masonic Temple, Montreal:

The Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of Canada, sitting in Annual Convocation, send fraternal greetings to their brethren of the Grand Lodge of Quebec in Annual Communication assembled.

THOS. SARGANT,
Grand Scribe E.

Letters and telegrams of regret were read from the following Companions: R. E. Comp. J. S. Dewar,

London ; M. E. Comp. R. B. Hungerford, London ; R. E. Comp. A. R. K. Macdonald, Woodstock ; R. E. Comp. J. D. Christie, Simcoe. expressing their kindest wishes for the prosperity of Grand Chapter.

The Executive Committee presented their report on

AUDIT AND FINANCE,

To the Most Excellent the Grand Z., Principals and Officers of the Grand Chapter of Canada :

The Committee on Audit and Finance beg to report that they have examined the books, vouchers, etc., of the Grand Scribe E. and Grand Treasurer to the 31st December, 1896, and find them perfectly correct.

RECEIPTS.

Balance on hand 30th June, 1895	\$19365 89
Certificates.....	696 00
Dues	1124 55
Fees	612 50
Dispensations.....	82 00
Constitutions.....	66 60
Sale of safe in Hamilton.....	95 00
Interest on Deposits.....	413 64
Toronto General Trusts, interest.....	198 76
Industrial Bonds, interest.....	550 46
Sundries	37 10
	<hr/>
	\$23,242 50

DISBURSEMENTS.

Toronto Industrial Bonds, bearing 4%.....	\$17000 00
Premium of 4% on same.....	680 00
Grants for Benevolence 1½ years.....	595 00
Salary Grand Scribe E. 1½ years.....	1050 00
Salary Grand Treasurer 1½ years.....	75 00
Grand Scribe E., balance of incidentals.....	10 24
“ “ advance.....	100 00
Foreign Correspondence.....	50 00
Grand Z's expenses.....	250 00
Grand Z., printing, postage, etc.....	25 75
Cablegram to Australia.....	22 83
Safe for office, to replace one sold.....	115 00
Rolph Smith & Co., Certificates.....	252 75
Hunter, Rose & Co., printing Ceremonies, etc.....	274 50
McPherson & Drope, Proceedings	340 95
Bonds G. S. E. and G. T., 2 years.....	40 00
D. Henderson, engrossing warrants.....	20 00
Legal expenses, re Bonds.....	15 00
	<hr/>
	\$209017 07

ASSETS.

Toronto Industrial School Bonds, 4%	\$17000 00
Guarantee Mortgage, Toronto General Trusts Co, 4%..	3000 00
Cash in Canadian Bank of Commerce	2325 43
	<hr/>
	\$22325 43

LIABILITIES.

Foreign Correspondence	\$100 00
Grand Z., expenses	50 00
Rolph Smith & Co., Certificates	150 00
Grand Scribe, advance	100 00
Grants to Benevolence	505 00
	<hr/>
	\$905 00

Your Committee are pleased to learn that an investment of \$17,000 has been made in Toronto Industrial school bonds, guaranteed by the city of Toronto. Term of bonds 20 years; interest 4 per cent. payable half yearly.

Your Committee beg to draw the attention of Grand Chapter to the fact that owing to the reduction in registration and certificates to two dollars instead of three, the receipts will be less for the future.

The contract for printing the Proceedings expires with this year's issue. Your Committee recommend that the G. S. E. ask for tenders for five years, to be submitted to your Committee at next Convocation of this Grand Chapter.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

A. SHAW,
Chairman.

Moved by R. E. Comp. M. Walsh, seconded by R. E. Comp. A. Shaw, and

Resolved, That the Report of the Executive Committee on Audit and Finance be received and adopted.

CONDITION OF CAPITULAR MASONRY.

To the Most Excellent the Grand Z., Principals and Officers of the Grand Chapter of Canada :

From the statements embraced in the reports of the sixteen Superintendents who eighteen months ago undertook the duty of inspecting the Chapters of their respective districts, your Committee has had little diffi-

culty in arriving at the conclusion that the condition of Capitular Masonry within this jurisdiction is a long way removed from anything that would cause anxiety.

These statements present a startling combination of variety and sameness unrelieved by even a modicum of originality. True, the theme is probably becoming time-worn, and it may be a laborious matter for the narrator to discover a new language in which to clothe his experiences, but glittering generalities, while furnishing a passing glimpse of the situation, are not sufficient data to enable this Committee to lay before Grand Chapter an intelligent analysis of the actual observations of sixteen inspecting officers for a year and a half.

In the make-up of their reports, be they little or much, there is invariably adopted a sort of follow-my-leader style that not only imparts to the reading thereof a dreary monotony, but renders the search after facts almost abortive.

In this respect the year is not a whit better or worse than many preceding, but it is a singular fact that the frequent hints sent out from this Committee, and there has been nothing ambiguous about them, have utterly failed to effect an improvement. The excellence of two or more of the reports, albeit very welcome, is not enough to compensate for the paucity of information that too frequently characterizes the remainder.

It is no doubt gratifying to the Superintendent to be able to express in cold type his acknowledgments for favors already received, to pleasantly remember those whose company enlivened the trip to some distant Chapter, or who greeted him on his arrival with words of fraternal goodfellowship, all of which would be appropriate and admissible if accompanied by the necessary details concerning the working and condition of the Chapter visited.

Your Committee last year observed that some of the Superintendents ventured a few suggestions, which, though of antique pattern were briefly referred to, and right in harmony with the remark offered above, a similar number of officers attempt a similar number of suggestions on exactly similar lines this year.

It was also noticed in last report that a Superintendent had betrayed a peculiar lack of memory, as far as duty was concerned, when he penned some adverse comment on the recently authorized revised work, but his untroubled prototype bobs up serenely this time, as usual, and has the temerity to declare that "widespread dissatisfaction" prevails in his district about something that once was beautiful, but is now atrociously maimed and maltreated, or words to that effect.

As this officer hails from an important district, which would doubtless evince "widespread" amazement did it learn that its representative had so far put his foot in it, the indiscreet words have been discreetly expunged. His intimation, however, that he is sure that "some of the Chapters continue to practice the old work" will be ample hint to his successor that there is employment awaiting him in his bailiwick.

It must be apparent to all, that what is expected from this, the main channel, cannot be furnished when the tributaries are so dried up as to become useless as feeders, or are choked with a flotsam and jetsam that interfere with and taint the pure supply. It is to express a keen disappointment at this all too obvious famine, and not in any spirit of fault finding, that these remarks are indited. To prepare an accurate review of the condition of the jurisdiction your Committee should be in possession of the fullest information, the trials and vicissitudes as well as the evidences of peace and advancement, concerning each and every Chapter, should be set forth. That they are not is abundantly manifest.

It is a trite but true saying that prosperity seems to be scarcely safe unless it is mixed with a little adversity, and to conceal a knowledge of the latter is not the most successful way to replace it with the former.

One Superintendent relates of a city Chapter which he visited in March last, that it "appeared the most unpromising" in his district, and, notwithstanding "innumerable" efforts on his part, he could not get a statement as to its condition. He expresses profound surprise at the lack of interest displayed.

A second cannot understand why a Chapter with four or five blue Lodges to draw from does not progress, yet he is a member and, of course, a frequent visitor.

In a third case the Superintendent was unable to visit a Chapter because it held no convocation during the year. Further he does not go.

Regret is expressed by another that two of his Chapters, one of which he thinks ought to be killed outright, should be in such a lamentable condition of weakness, yet he failed to visit either, or furnish the reason why.

These and other instances are sufficient to establish the opinion arrived at by your Committee, that the lack of interest shown by the Chapters and so touchingly deplored by some of the Superintendents might have been considerably lessened had those officers exhibited a little of the same commodity.

Only in a general way can your Committee report because, except in a few cases, it is only in a general way that information is furnished. The duty of visitation was fairly well performed, though considering the long period between Grand Chapter Convocations something better might reasonably have been expected.

The existing state of affairs may be estimated from a panoramic review of the reports, such as they are.

There are now six Chapters in the St. Clair, or first, District, King Cyrus at Leamington being a recent and promising addition. The Superintendent visited each and reports them in excellent condition financially strong and closing the term with an increased membership.

A voluminous and interesting report is furnished from the London District, which gives a comprehensive idea of the work done and the standing of the Chapters. The Superintendent was active and zealous, visiting all seven Chapters and infusing some of his own enthusiasm into most. A question of jurisdiction threatened to disturb the serenity of the Sarnia and Parkhill Companions, but oil was not lacking in the vicinity and the troubled waters were calmed.

The five Chapters comprising the Wilson District

received the personal attention of the Superintendent who states that with one exception they are progressing encouragingly. The Chapter at Brantford, he says, halts by the wayside. It exhibits a lack of interest which showed itself particularly in an indifference to his appeals for a statement of work done.

Wellington's six Chapters were all visited by the Superintendent who regards them as fairly prosperous. The new Chapter at Berlin, he says, will take a leading place. That at Guelph is not displaying the strength it ought to do from its favorable situation.

The Superintendent of the Hamilton District reports highly of the four Chapters, all of which display a more than ordinary excellence in working, those of Hamilton as usual being prominent in that respect. The Companions of White Oak Chapter at Oakville show a laudable disposition to be up with the procession. They contributed not a little to the success of the Chapter of Instruction held in the city of Hamilton and which it is recorded ended in "a blaze of glory."

Over the Huron District fell a dark shadow this year in the death of the Superintendent, R. E. Comp. F. W. Gearing. In October last Comp. H. Fred. Sharp was appointed to the vacancy and during his brief incumbency did what he could in the interests of his charge. He visited several of the Chapters and endeavored to obtain from others the nature of their position and progress. His summing up is not rosy. Of the eight Chapters in the district he says "very few of them have more than held their own," although the officers generally are distinguished for good working. Saugeen Chapter at Mitchell, transferred some time ago from Walkerton, is in a very satisfactory condition. Of the Chapter at Wingham he could not learn anything and that at Exeter, which is exhibiting somnolent symptoms, he predicts will soon be active as of yore.

If there is merit in brevity the report of the Superintendent of the Niagara District is entitled to all there is going. His story of visitations, Chapter of Instruction and the condition of his district, is comprised in a record of twenty lines or thereabouts. Grimsby Chapter he did not visit because there was no Convocation during

the year. There is no further information regarding it. The other five are healthy and progressive and he thinks the district is certain to advance.

Toronto's Superintendent, if frequent visiting and a faithful record of the same count for anything, is entitled to a leading place. He presents a first-class report and one that gives an intelligent idea of the condition of the eight Chapters inspected by him. Most of them are strong, enthusiastic and advancing. The two which exhibited signs of weakness, York at Eglinton and Doric at Newmarket, are now showing indications of improvement. The district generally is to be congratulated.

Of the six Chapters in the Georgian District, three were visited by the Superintendent. Of the others, one is very sick and another a subject for the undertaker. The third "from information received" is doing well. It is a matter of regret, the Superintendent says, that the Chapter at Owen Sound should display such alarming apathy. It is also sad to relate that he was unable to visit it. His predecessor's opinion that the Chapter at Meaford should have a nice decent funeral, he agrees with. This Chapter was also unvisited. The visited Chapters are flourishing and notwithstanding the two or three dark spots in the Georgian sky, he predicts a successful movement "all along the line." It may be therefore inferred that this officer lives in the hope of a joyful resurrection—at Meaford.

Ontario District in the hands of a zealous inspector, shows up very favorably. His eight Chapters were well looked after, and he submits a report of their doings in readable form but without the details so necessary to the purpose of this Committee. It is however sufficient to show that there is no falling off at any single point. On the contrary each Chapter exhibits an increase and the outlook is most promising.

"Every Chapter in the district is in good working order" such is the cheering report of the Superintendent of the Prince Edward District, which comprises five progressive Chapters. The narration is pleasant, but not comprehensive enough. It is good to know, however, that "peace and harmony prevail." The district has been in diligent hands.

"Business engagements" interfered with the good intention of the Superintendent of the St. Lawrence District to visit each of his eight Chapters, notwithstanding that he had eighteen months in which to accomplish it. Nevertheless, he covered six of them, and reports well, if briefly, in each case, though the Chapter at Morrisburgh, he thinks, might have done better but for the business depression.

Five Chapters are included in the new Ottawa District formed last year, and the Superintendent visited all but one, and that one seems to have required a visit more than all the others. A number of reasons combined to raise a cloud of adversity over Mattawa, but there is a small hope hidden away somewhere under the Superintendent's vest that "old Companions" and "new blood" will yet do wonders for Pembroke Chapter. The new Chapter at Carleton Place is favorably reported on.

One thousand miles in length is Algoma District in which there are four Chapters. The Superintendent has some knowledge of two of them, and states that he tried hard to learn whether those at Rat Portage and Port Arthur were in existence. He failed utterly in the former case, and in the latter learned at the last moment that Shuniah Chapter was all right and in good working order. The Chapter at Sudbury is active and growing, and that at Sault Ste Marie is doing likewise and is assured of success.

The Manitoba Superintendent started off under the belief that he had half a dozen Chapters to look after, but found when he settled down to visit that the Companions at Portage la Prairie had grown weary and handed in their charter. The Chapters at Calgary, Bois-sevain and Edmonton were not visited. They are too far away. He learned, however, that they are getting along very well without him. The Winnipeg Chapters are, as might be expected, doing excellent work.

Seventeen additions are reported by the Superintendent as the record of the one Chapter in British Columbia and the prospects are excellent. He expects that the Companions at Kaslo, a mining town in the Kootenay district, will make application for a charter ere long. The pick, crow bar and shovel play an important

part in the development of that country just now. They may also assist in their symbolic aspect to strengthen and expand the ancient Craft which advances with civilization the world over.

Most of the Superintendents extol the quality of the ceremonial work as presented by the officers of the many Chapters visited. At the Chapters of Instruction, and there were not a few, excellence in this respect was the subject of general remark. The undoubted attraction of the impressive ritual must, under circumstances so favorable, be an incentive to attendance and growth. Both, from what can be gathered, were more or less apparent, but not to the desired extent.

But while there is recorded a gratifying increase in new members, the ranks of the unaffiliated and suspended have received accessions out of due proportion. This is a fault that must be corrected within the Chapters and with the aid of those who are appointed to oversee them. The desired prosperity is not to be secured altogether by an accurate exposition of the ritual. There are other attainments to which our Chapter rulers should aspire, and not the least of these is the education of the Companions as to their duty as such. Unfortunately too many of these Chapter officers are chosen the birth and end of whose attainments is a parrot-like acquirement of the ceremonies. To teach or guide their Companions is beyond their limited sphere. While candidating they are all smiles and hypocrisy, when elected and installed they are overbearing and perhaps worse. To thrive under such administration the membership must possess a more than ordinary share of one at least of the four cardinal virtues. The removal of the evil must begin at the beginning. Make the source pure and the fountain will send forth strengthening water for the healing of the nations wheresoever dispersed.

“If the Companions were instructed in the beautiful symbolism and taught that no emblem, token or word is devoid of a profound signification, and if they were aided as they should be, in searching for that deep meaning, they might, and probably would, wake up to the fact that theirs is the grandest institution ever

devised by man, and so perfect that it seems the work of divine rather than of human hands.

The Companions, especially those newly introduced, should be taught to ever bear in mind the spirit of their obligations; that it is an offence of grave significance to neglect when able the payment of dues, and that it is equally a violation of solemn duty to withdraw without valid cause. When we consider the sacred ties that bind us together, and reflect that these delinquents appealed for and received our confidence, and were greeted as Companions, it is hard to believe that even one-tenth part of them really understand how immoral, disreputable and disgraceful is their conduct. Some there are who consider that Chapter dues are like the premium on an insurance policy, that they have a perfect right to stop payment and let the policy lapse. No effort should be spared to combat this erroneous opinion. The realization of its enormity will do much to lessen the evil."

From the reports it is gathered that the long season of hard times has affected the Chapters, and it may be that the allurements of societies with an insurance or other beneficiary attachment may have drawn from their allegiance Companions who paused not to reflect that they were at least imperilling their reputation for fealty. These causes however are but transitory. A prominent official of one of these benefit societies once remarked "thousands are attracted by the pecuniary element where hundreds are by our principles." This is clearly indicative that candidates for Masonry will be attracted by proper motives. Those who are actuated by selfish instinct will seek those organizations which promise material advantages, while those who are in pursuit of light will naturally turn to its true source.

Seasons of depression come and go and allurements innumerable are born and fostered to entice gregarious mankind, and like mankind to weaken and decay. The ancient Craft whose fundamental tenets appealing to every creed and clime have been cherished even amid the crumbling ruins of mighty dynasties, grows like the morning sun stronger and brighter.

While in the ranks of the unaffiliated and suspended

there are many who experience a change of heart and gladly return to fraternal communion with their Companions, there are also missing faces that we shall never look upon until we too are summoned before that Awful and Mysterious Name. Death has been merciful with this jurisdiction, but where it did strike it struck heavily. London District has lost a zealous brother and Companion in the death of Past Grand Superintendent Ed. Burke. The calling away of R. E. Comp. Gearing from a life of Masonic activity will be severely felt in the Huron District. R. E. Comp. Fox, of Orangeville, was an active worker in his Chapter and the Wellington District for years, and the Toronto District in R. E. Comp. T. F. Blackwood's death has experienced a loss which the Companions generally and St. Paul's Chapter in particular deeply deplore.

"The flowers and fruits of the present are from the seeds and labours of the past." The pure principles of Freemasonry, crystallized into the organization that it has been for centuries, has accomplished untold good in the world. From time immemorial it has benefitted mankind. To-day it is firm and enduring as the everlasting hills, and when we too shall be numbered with the innumerable throng, Companions yet unborn will record its achievements and greatness.

Why then should ephemeral troubles shadow our path or hinder us in the great and glorious work? Perseverance is necessary to establish perfection. Repeated efforts alone will enable us to remove the tiny blemishes which now appear formidable, and when in the fullness of time others are prepared to take our places and assume the sword and trowel we can cheerily answer the summons to retire, conscious of having contributed our share to the building of the Temple dedicated to the true and living God Most High, the Omnipotent Jehovah.

Fraternally submitted,

GEO. J. BENNETT,
Chairman.

Moved by R. E. Comp. M. Walsh, seconded by M. E. Comp. G. J. Bennett, and

Resolved, That the report of the Executive Committee on the Condition of Capitular Masonry be received and adopted.

WARRANTS.

To the Most Excellent Grand Z., Principals and Officers of the Grand Chapter of Canada :

Your Committee on Warrants beg to report as follows :

Application has been received from King Cyrus Royal Arch Chapter, U. D., at Leamington, Essex Co. They have only held one Convocation, December 30th, 1896. Everything being regular, we recommend that a warrant be granted.

Application has been received from North Star Royal Arch Chapter, U. D., at Edmonton, N. W. T. This Chapter has not sent its minute book, but all else is regular and your Committee recommend that a warrant be granted as soon as they send their minute book to M. E. Comp. Thos. Sargant, G. S. E., the same being satisfactory to him.

Application has been received from Berlin Royal Arch Chapter, U. D., Berlin, Waterloo Co. This Chapter shows good work while under dispensation, everything being regular. Minute book well and neatly kept. Therefore your committee recommend that a warrant be granted.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

W. G. REID,
Chairman.

It was moved by R. E. Comp. M. Walsh, seconded by R. E. Comp. W. G. Reid, and

Resolved, That the report of the Executive Committee on Warrants be received and adopted.

CHARTER MEMBERS.

Berlin No. 117, Berlin.—Allan S. Thornton, Z. ; Alfred Oelschlager, H. ; William Oelschlager, J. ; Abram Shaw, Henry Wildfong, William Brown, H. G. Lackner, J. Suddaby, H. J. Hall, William Hendry, Geo. Moore, J. Meisner, J. M. Scully, J. E. Seagram. Dispensation granted 2nd March, 1896.

North Star No. 118, Edmonton, Alberta.—Hedley C. Taylor, Z. ; James John Dunlop, H. ; Duncan Campbell Robertson, J. ; K. A. McLeod, Frank Osborne,

Thomas Hourston, G. Macdonald, T. F. English, N. J. Lindsay, Wilson Brown, J. A. Rankin, J. G. Vanwart, H. Blick, C. A. W. Whitehead. Dispensation granted 18th August, 1896.

King Cyrus No. 119, Leamington.—George Collingwood Foster, Z.; William Coulter Coulson, H.; William Albert Baker, J.; Thomas Miller, James Robson, W. A. Baker, Geo. Craig, F. C. Quallin, R. Hellin, James S. Greenshiel, A. Westcott, Geo. Johnston. Dispensation granted November, 1896.

BENEVOLENCE.

To the M. E. the Grand Z., Principals and Officers of the Grand Chapter of Canada :

The Executive Committee of the Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of Canada on Benevolent Grants, beg leave to report :

That we have examined the applications sent in by subordinate Chapters, and would recommend that the following grants be made, viz :

Name of Grantee.	Amt.	No.	Through Whom Payable
Widow of S. H. Blondheim....	\$30	1	1st Principal Anc. Fron. and Cat. No. 1
" John Munro.....	10	2	" " " " " "
" W. B. Simpson.....	40	3	" " " " " "
Children of J. G. Burns.....	30	4	" " King Solomon No. 8.
Comp. A. Couper.....	40	5	" " McCallum No. 29.
Widow of C. E. S. Black.....	20	6	" " " " "
Widow of W. B. Wallace.....	20	7	" " Victoria No. 27.
Widow of John Vaux.....	20	8	" " Wellington No. 37.
Comp. John Munroe.....	40	9	" " Havelock No. 63.
Comp. G. R. Barker.....	30	10	" " " " "
Widow of T. D. Harington...	40	11	" " King Solomon No. 8.
" Peter Grant.....	20	12	" " Palestine No. 54.
" C. Merriot.....	15	13	" " " " "
" John Kennedy.....	20	14	" " St. John's No. 6.
Comp. E. Hill.....	40	15	" " " " "
Daughter of J. S. Fraser..	20	16	" " Hiram No. 2.
" W. Kerr.....	20	17	" " Carleton No. 16.
Widow of H. Lawkin.....	20	18	" " " " "
" J. S. Baker.....	10	19	" " Victoria No. 37.
" S. Dockstader.....	20	20	" " Erie No. 37.
Mother of Donald McLeod...	20	21	" " Huron No. 30.

Your committee recommend that the rules of Grand Lodge as to benevolent grants be applied to applications to Grand Chapter.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

JOHN E. HARDING,
Chairman,

It was moved by R. E. Comp. M. Walsh, seconded by M. E. Comp. J. E. Harding, and

Resolved, That the report of the Committee on Benevolence be received and adopted.

GRAND Z'S ADDRESS.

To the M. E. Grand Z., Officers and Companions of Grand Chapter of Canada :

The Executive Committee to whom was referred the address of the M. E. Grand Z., having carefully considered the same, beg leave to submit the following report :

The Committee desires to congratulate the M. E. Grand Z. and the Grand Chapter on the wise and careful supervision exercised by the M. E. over the Royal Craft for the past two-and-a-half years.

Your Committee join with the M. E. in expressing regret that the beautiful ritual of the degrees of the Royal Craft are not better exemplified by the Chapters generally, and trust that more attention may be directed to an improvement in this regard in the future.

The experience gained by the visit of the M. E. to eighty Chapters during his incumbency of the office of Grand Z. must bear fruit in the near future and result in an improvement in the Chapters visited. The experience gained by the Grand Z. will also be of great value to Grand Chapter and give great weight to the advice of the M. E. in the future government of the Royal Craft.

While your Committee join in the expression of regret at the loss of so many members during the last eighteen months, they cannot help feeling that it is but another evidence of the returning life of the Chapters, whose members are now taking sufficient interest in them to purge the roll of their respective Chapters of the accumulation of withered and dead branches.

Your Committee concur in the remarks of the Grand Z. with reference to the army of non-affiliates, and also in the remedy suggested, by each Chapter making an effort to induce the non-affiliates to return to the fold.

Your Committee are also of the opinion that, although some of the Chapters have not taken advantage of the lowering of the entrance fees or fees for exaltation, yet others have done so and were greatly benefitted thereby, and trust that time will prove the wisdom of Grand Chapter in making the change.

Your Committee desire to express their entire approval of the action of the M. E. in refusing permission to a Chapter to continue to work a degree not authorized by Grand Chapter, and also desire to concur in the remarks of the M. E. with reference to this degree.

Your Committee desire to express their approval of the investment of funds of Grand Chapter made during the year just passed, and render their congratulations on the secure investment of its funds, security being the first consideration in the investment of the funds of Grand Chapter.

The survey of the ground made by the M. E., and the careful consideration given by him to the subject, give his remarks with reference thereto the greatest weight and should have the careful consideration of grand Chapter when applications are made for new Chapters in the future.

Your Committee are pleased to note the large proportion of Chapters that are doing good work, and trust that in the near future other Chapters will make an effort to join the roll of honor.

The Committee agree in the main with the Grand Z. in his expressions of opinion respecting the higher branches of Masonry and the growing desire on the part of the fraternity on this side of the Atlantic to reach them. The different, and yet to a certain extent inter-woven, pathways are free and open to all who can comply with the necessary tests, and there need not be, and is not, so far as your Committee can learn, friction to any appreciable extent between those who are honestly and faithfully endeavoring to arrive as nearly as in this world is possible to perfection, though by different words and under different leaders.

The Committee heartily join with the Grand Z. in the great satisfaction that has been afforded him

from his knowledge, after careful observation, of the pleasant relations that exist in this jurisdiction between the various Masonic organizations. Each may have its own special attractions, but all can be profitably investigated and followed, for all have a common basis, and all a common object in view.

The Committee trust that the one-hundredth anniversary of the commencement of Capitular Masonry in this jurisdiction, attention to which is drawn by the Grand Z. in his address, will not be allowed to pass without being marked in an appropriate and befitting manner.

The Committee concur with the Grand Z. in his regrets that proper Royal Arch clothing and jewels are conspicuous by their absence in our Chapters, and agree with him in the opinion that, so far as the apron and sash, at all events, are concerned, they should be added to and included in the fee for the Arch Degree. This, your Committee believe, is the only sure and general remedy for the defects so widely prevalent in this respect.

The Committee notice with much pleasure that the union of your Chapters in Victoria with the Grand Chapter of that colony has been happily and successfully accomplished, and that the accession by that Grand Chapter of the Chapters alluded to will enable it to greatly extend its sphere of usefulness.

Your Committee cannot permit the announcement of the Grand Z. of his retirement from the First Principal's chair in this Grand Chapter, the highest honor which the Companions can bestow on any of its members, without expressing their deepest acknowledgments of the benefits which have been conferred on Capitular Masonry by his frequent visits to the several Chapters during his two and a half years of occupation of the First Principal's chair, and his wise counsel in his addresses to this Grand Chapter, and the Grand Z. may be assured that he has earned the kindest feeling of all his Companions, not only for his faithfulness in office, but for his many acts of charity not only to the Craft but also outside the Order, the least of which may be referred to in the establishment of the Sick Children's

Hospital, in which the Grand Z. has established a Masonic ward, which will in the future be a lasting benefit to the suffering children of the members of the Masonic Order.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

JOHN E. HARDING,
Chairman.

Moved by R. E. Comp. M. Walsh, seconded by R. E. Comp. John E. Harding, and

Resolved, That the Report of the Executive Committee on the Address of the M. E. Grand Z. be received and adopted.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS.

The election of officers was then proceeded with. The M. E. Grand Z. appointed R. E. Comp. L. W. Burke, G. C. Patterson and Geo. Chrystal as scrutineers.

The result of the election was as follows :

M. E. Comp. M. Walsh, Ingersoll.....	Grand Z.
R. E. Comp. W. G. Reid, Hamilton.....	Grand H.
R. E. Comp. Geo. F. Shepley, Toronto.....	Grand J.

The Grand Chapter was then called off for the space of twenty minutes for the election of Grand Superintendents of Districts.

The Grand Chapter resumed labor.

The following Companions having been nominated by the representatives from the respective Districts, they were approved of and the elections confirmed by the M. E. Grand Z. :

R. E. Comp. S. S. Willison, Ridgetown,	St. Clair Dist. No. 1
R. E. " Robert Scott, Petrolea,	London " 2
R. E. " Peter H. Cox, Paris,	Wilson " 3
R. E. " R. Mann, Orangeville,	Wellington " 4
R. E. " T. McCallum, Hamilton,	Hamilton " 5
R. E. " H. F. Sharp, St. Marys,	Huron " 6
R. E. " G. Burch, St. Catharines,	Niagara " 7
R. E. " A. G. Horwood, Toronto,	Toronto " 8
R. E. " Isaac Huber, Bracebridge,	Georgian " 9
R. E. " R. E. Wood, Peterboro,	Ontario " 10
R. E. " S. C. Warner, Napanee,	Pr. Edward " 11
R. E. " C.H. Fitzsimmons, Brockville,	St Lawrence " 12
R. E. " D. H. McIntosh, Carleton Pl.	Ottawa " 13
R. E. " J. A. Sharp, Sudbury,	Algoma " 14
R. E. " Jas. A. Carley, Winnipeg,	Manitoba " 15
R. E. " H. H. Watson, Vancouver,	B. Columbia " 16
R. E. " N. J. Lindsay, Calgary,	Alberta " 17

The election of officers was then resumed with the following result :

M. E. Comp.	Thos. Sargant, Toronto,	G. S. E., re-elected.
R. E. "	John Lesslie, Winnipeg,	G. S. N.
R. E. "	E. W. Case, Picton,	G. P. S.
R. E. "	Hugh Murray, Hamilton,	G. Treas., re-elected.
R. E. "	Wm. McKellar, Stratford,	G. Registrar.
Comp.	John H. Pritchard,	G. Janitor.

The following named Companions were elected members of the Executive Committee for the ensuing year :

R. E. Comp.	Wm. Roaf, Toronto, re-elected.
R. E. "	D. H. Martyn, Kincardine, "
R. E. "	D. F. Macwatt, Barrie, "
R. E. "	A. Shaw, Kingston, "
R. E. "	Wm. Birrell, Hamilton. "

The following Companions compose the Committee on Benevolence, and are members of the Executive Committee for the following terms :

M. E. Comp.	Daniel Spry, London, retires in 1899.
M. E. "	John E. Harding, Stratford, retires in 1900.
R. E. "	John S. Dewar, London, retires in 1898.

ANSWER TO TELEGRAM TO GRAND LODGE OF QUEBEC.

MONTREAL, Jan. 27th, 1897.

The Grand Lodge of Quebec in Annual Communication assembled acknowledges and reciprocates the fraternal greetings expressed in your telegram of this date. May the Royal Craft continue to flourish.

J. H. ISAACSON,
Grand Secretary.

VOTE TO SICK CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL.

It was moved by R. E. Comp. D. F. Macwatt, seconded by M. E. Comp. John E. Harding, and

Resolved, That the Finance Committee be instructed to set apart the sum of one thousand dollars a donation to the Sick Children's Hospital, \$500 to be paid 1st February, 1897, and \$500 to be paid 1st January, 1898.

COMMITTEE TO REVISE THE CEREMONY OF OPENING AND CLOSING GRAND CHAPTER.

It was moved by M. E. Comp. J. E. Harding, seconded by M. E. Comp. T. Sargant, and

Resolved, That a committee be appointed by the Grand Z. to revise and improve the opening and closing ceremonies of Grand Chapter.

Committee:—The Grand H. and J., M. E. Comp. J. E. Harding and M. E. Grand Z.

CENTENNIAL OF ROYAL ARCH MASONRY.

The Most Excellent Grand Z. announced that the date of the centennial of Royal Arch Masonry in Canada would be in June, 1897, and appointed the Grand Council of 1897 with himself as a committee to co-operate with the Principals of the Chapters in Toronto to make that event one of the greatest interest possible, notice of which would be sent by the Grand Scribe E. to the Chapters in the jurisdiction.

PAST RANK CONFERRED.

It was moved by M. E. Comp. T. Sargent, seconded by R. E. Comp. G. J. Bennett, Whereas the Districts of London and Huron became vacant, the former by the resignation of the Grand Superintendent, the latter by the death of R. E. Comp. Gearing; and that E. Comp. W. G. McWhinney, London, and H. F. Sharp, St. Mary's, have performed the duties of said officers since the vacancy, therefore be it

Resolved, That the rank of Past Grand Superintendent be conferred upon Companions McWhinney and Sharp.

NEXT PLACE OF MEETING.

The following places were named as the next place of meeting:—Stratford, Winnipeg, Toronto. Upon the vote being taken, it was decided to hold the Convocation in Toronto.

INSTALLATION OF OFFICERS.

M. E. Comp. J. Ross Robertson, assisted by M. E. Comps. J. E. Harding and J. J. Mason, then proceeded with the installation and investiture of the newly elected officers who were proclaimed and saluted with Masonic honors.

APPOINTED OFFICERS.

V. E. Comp.	S. Brown, Toronto.....	Grand	1st Asst. Soj.
"	" Wm. Partlo, Ingersoll.....	"	2nd "
R. E.	" J. B. Nixon, Toronto.....	"	Lecturer
V. E.	" E. Miller Kincardine.....	"	Sword Bearer
"	" John Sinclair, Petrolea.....	"	M. of 1st Veil
"	" Judge Locke, Morden, Man..	"	M. of 2nd Veil
"	" Robt. Magness, Hamilton....	"	M. of 3rd Veil
"	" J. C. Brown, Orangeville....	"	M. of 4th Veil
"	" C. J. Wensley, Campbellford.	"	Stan'd Bearer
"	" S. A. Luke, Ottawa.....	"	Dir. of Cere's
"	" Wm. Elliott, Mitchell	"	Organist.....
"	" David Spence, Peterboro....	"	Pursuivant
"	" A. H. Campbell, London.....	"	Steward
"	" D. Robertson, Eglington	"	"
"	" W. J. Hallet, Barrie	"	"
"	" D. Cochran, Ridgetown.....	"	"

APPOINTMENT OF EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE.

The M. E. Grand Z. then nominated the following Companions as the appointed member of the Executive Committee for the ensuing year :

R. E. Comp.	G. J. Bennett, Toronto.
"	" L. W. Burke, London.
"	" W. B. McArther, Ottawa.
"	" L. A. Congdon, Dunnville.
"	" A. R. Hargraft, Cobourg.

TESTIMONIAL TO M. E. COMP. J. R. ROBERTSON, P. G. Z.

It was moved by R. E. Comp. W. G. Reid, seconded by M. E. John E. Harding, and

Resolved, That a committee be appointed to procure and present a suitable testimonial to M. E. Comp. J. Ross Robertson, P. G. Z., in token of the appreciation of the eminent work done by him during the last two years and a half.

The Most. Ex. Grand Z. appointed M. E. Comp. J. E. Harding and the Grand Council.

VOTE OF THANKS.

It was moved by R. E. Comp. W. G. Reid, seconded by R. E. Comp. A. Shaw, and

Resolved, That the cordial vote of thanks of this Grand Chapter is due and hereby tendered to the Masonic Hall Board of Trustees, the Companions of Toronto Chapters for their kindly attention and fraternal reception of the officers and members of Grand Chapter, as well as the arrangements made for the Thirty Ninth Convocation of this Grand Body.

The labors of this Grand Chapter being ended, it closed in **Ample Form** at 7 p. m.



W. Sargent

Grand Scribe E.

TORONTO, 27th January, A. L., 2427, A. D., 1897.

ADDENDUM.

RETURNS OF SUBORDINATE CHAPTERS, 31st DECEMBER, 1896.

No.	Name of Chapter.	Where Held.	Reg. Meeting.	First Principal Z.	Scribe E.	Admissions.	Joinings.	Restorations.	Withdrawals.	Suspensions.	Expulsions.	Deaths.	Members	Increase	Decrease
1	An. Fron-and Cat'i	Kingston	Third Wed'day	W. J. Renton	Joseph Fortescue	2				6		3	72	...	7
2	The Hiram	Hamilton	First Monday	Thomas Smith	W. E. Brown	9	2			23		5	159	...	25
3	St. John's	London	Fourth Wed.	Alex. Findlay	John Siddons	28				7		3	130	14	
4	St. And. & St. John	Toronto	Third Friday	Jas. McCurrah	M. Leverty	19	1	1		4		3	115	3	
5	St. George's	London	Fourth Friday	J. W. Butler	Charles C. Reid	13	2			13		5	103	5	
6	St. John's	Hamilton	Second Thur.	A. T. Neill	W. J. McAllister	24	1			6		1	215	...	8
7	Molra	Belleville	First Tuesday	Wm. McKewen	Wm. Smeaton	6	3			1		5	110	1	
8	King Solomon	Toronto	First Friday	James S. Lovell	John Roberts	27	3			2		4	181	17	
15	Wawanosh	Samia	Second Friday	Robert Kerr	David Watt	23	1			7		1	83	22	6
16	Carleton	Ottawa	Third Friday	W. H. G. Garrioch	W. G. S. Reynolds	4		1		6		1	78	...	
18	Oxford	Woodstock	Third Monday	H. A. Biggins	John Morrison	7	4			3		3	58	...	2
19	Mount Moriah	St. Catharines	F. o. or b. f. m.	Charles Bureh	Wm. A. Reade	19		1				3	89	17	
20	Mount Horeb	Brantford	First Friday	John E. Taylor	J. G. Liddell								62	...	
22	Grenville	Prescott	Second Tues.	John E. Ryan	Allan J. Smith	11				2		3	54	2	
23	Ezra	Simcoe	Thur. af. f. m.	Wm. Kennedy	W. P. Kelly	13				4		1	63	12	
24	Tecumseh	Stratford	First Tuesday	C. McLellan	A. E. Neil	27	2	1		8		2	102	19	
26	St. Marks	Trenton	First Wed.	W. T. Wilkins	R. H. Spencer	3	3			2			38	1	
27	Manitou	Collingwood	First Friday	Geo. M. Ayisworth	Frank B. Gregory	17							49	17	
28	Pentalpha	Oshawa	Second Friday	John Lander	L. K. Murtion	9				1		1	45	7	
29	McCallum	Dunville	Friday af. f. m.	R. G. W. Counolly	R. A. Harrison	2						1	42	1	
30	Huron	Goderich	Third Tuesday	W. H. Marney	W. A. Rhynas	1	1			1		2	42	...	2
31	Prince Edward	Pictou	Mo. on or b. f. m.	G. Nelson	Ed. W. Case	11	1						103	11	
32	Waterloo	Galt	Second Mon.	W. F. Mitchell	A. J. Oliver	5		1		5		...	51	...	5
34	Signet	Barrie	Second Tues.	I. B. McPhee	Fred Marr	7				3		...	65	1	
35	Keystone	Whitby	Third Friday	A. G. Henderson	John Reed	5				4		1	40	6	
36	Corinthian	Peterboro	Third Tuesday	A. S. A. Smith	W. H. Walkey	5		1		2		...	69	1	
37	Victoria	Port Hope	Second Friday	W. G. Coulter	Thos. H. Bell	9				3		...	44	6	
38	Seymour	Shelburne	Second Friday	Rev. W. A. Graham	W. L. Smith							...	28	...	
39	Guelph	Guelph	Second Friday	R. Mahony, Jr.	G. J. Brill	5						...	61	3	
41	Harris	Ingersoll	Second Friday	Wm. Partlo	C. H. Grant	3				3		2	37	...	2
44	Mount Sinai	Napanee	Wed. af. f. m.	J. G. Bennett	R. L. Henry	4	1			1		...	60	4	
45	Excelsior	Colborne	First Thursday	James Cochrane	I. L. Knapp	9	1			3		1	56	4	
46	St. James	St. Marys	Third Friday	A. Carman	Fred T. Sharp	4	4			2		...	25	4	
47	Wellington	Chatham	Second Thur.	Thos. Scullard	James Birch	5						...	42	5	
48	St. John's	Cobourg	F. O. or b. f. m.	B. J. Mallory	R. J. Craig	6				1		1	37	4	
50	Saugeen	Mitchell	Th. o. or b. f. m.	Wm. White	F. H. Thompson	2	1			1		...	18	2	

52	Prince Rupert.....	Winnipeg.....	First Thursday	Norman Brownell..	S. G. G. Thompson	8	1	1	7	6	....	2	145	....	5
53	Bruce.....	Petrolia.....	First Thursday	John Sinclair.....	Henry Mann.....	23	....	1	1	4	....	1	61	17	....
54	Fairstone.....	St. Thomas.....	Second Thur.....	S. Dubber.....	W. E. Idsard.....	2	1	....	2	4	....	2	91	5	....
55	Niagara.....	Niagara.....	Th. at f. m.....	Oliver Taylor.....	John M. Clement...	3	....	....	....	....	....	1	19	2	....
56	Georgian.....	Owen Sound.....	Third Tuesday	H. H. Burgess.....	W. A. Bishop.....	1	....	....	....	....	....	2	52	....	1
57	Pembroke.....	Mattawa.....	Third Tuesday	J. DeSousa.....	A. N. Grasswell....	3	....	....	1	....	....	....	41	2	....
58	Sussex.....	Brockville.....	Fr. o. or b. f. m.	M. Brown.....	W. W. Wood.....	10	....	....	3	1	....	2	61	4	....
59	Doric.....	Newmarket.....	First Wed.....	D. R. B. Phillips...	A. McLellan.....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	41	....	....
60	Granite.....	Almonte.....	Second Monday	David Williams...	J. M. Munro.....	....	....	....	7	7	....	....	26	....	5
61	York.....	Eglington.....	First Thur.....	J. J. Madden.....	S. E. Clubine.....	6	3	....	2	....	....	1	42	....	....
62	Havelock.....	Kincardine.....	Third Thur.....	J. C. Cooke.....	W. J. McPherson...	3	....	....	....	....	....	....	45	....	2
63	Wilson.....	Welland.....	Last Wed.....	W. G. Somerville...	D. Ross.....	4	....	....	....	5	....	1	44	....	1
64	St. Paul's.....	Toronto.....	Second Wed.....	John McKnight....	W. E. Burritt.....	8	1	....	2	5	....	2	88	....	5
65	Malloch.....	Seaforth.....	Friday b. f. m.	Rev. J. W. Hodgins	A. R. Sampson....	3	1	....	4	1	....	....	22	....	1
66	Enterprise.....	Harrison.....	First Monday	Geo. Leighton.....	David Clapp.....	....	2	....	2	4	....	1	24	....	2
67	Matland.....	North Augusta	1st Fr. a. f. m.....	J. Chapman.....	J. H. McCully.....	8	....	....	3	6	....	....	28	....	1
68	Grimsby.....	Grimsby.....	W. J. S. N. J. M	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....
69	Grand River.....	Bracebridge.....	Third Thur.....	Richard Mills.....	Peter Hutcheson...	16	....	....	....	....	....	....	29	....	....
70	Prince of Wales.	Amherstburg.....	First Monday.	Thos. Hobley, M.D.	Frank M. Falls.....	6	....	....	1	5	....	1	29	....	1
71	Keystone.....	Stirling.....	Wed. b. f. m.....	W. Borden.....	John Shaw.....	7	....	....	....	....	....	....	42	7	....
72	Erie.....	Ridgeway.....	2nd Mon a. f. m.	B. W. Willson.....	J. A. Dart.....	6	....	....	....	....	....	....	48	6	....
73	St. Clair.....	Milton.....	Second Tues.....	C. H. Hoff.....	Robert Coates.....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	26	....	....
74	Mount Nebo.....	Niagara Falls S	Fr. on or b. f. m.	Richard Sloggett..	Geo. Hyett.....	3	....	....	1	....	....	....	55	2	....
75	Occident.....	Toronto.....	Second Friday	W. W. Murdoch...	G. K. Clemens.....	16	....	....	....	4	....	2	76	10	....
76	Minnewawa.....	Parkhill.....	Fr. on or a. f. m.	Wm. Dawson.....	Geo. W. Wedd.....	5	....	....	3	....	....	....	31	2	....
77	Orient.....	Toronto.....	Fourth Thur.....	M. P. McMaster....	E. H. Briggs.....	9	....	....	6	8	....	1	79	....	0
78	Ark.....	Windsor.....	Second Monday	John Sale.....	Robert H. Revell..	71	2	1	6	9	....	1	114	58	....
79	Aylmer.....	Port Arthur.....	Fr. on or a. f. m.	M. Burgess.....	S. E. Richards.....	4	....	....	1	1	....	....	54	5	....
80	Shuniah.....	Port Arthur.....	Fr. on or b. f. m.	W. J. Clarke.....	R. E. Mitchell.....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	49	....	1
81	Ionic.....	Orangeville.....	Tus on or a. f. m.	Robt. Irvine.....	D. McPherson.....	5	....	....	13	....	....	3	53	....	11
82	Lebanon.....	Wingham.....	Third Tuesday	M. Eacret.....	J. A. Morton.....	3	....	....	1	3	....	....	25	....	1
83	Exeter.....	Exeter.....	First Tuesday	M. Eacret.....	G. A. McLeod.....	....	....	....	1	....	....	....	27	....	....
84	Macpherson.....	Meaford.....	Th on or b. f. m.	Chas. Pye.....	C. F. Snelgrove....	2	2	....	2	....	....	....	23	....	....
85	Macnabb.....	Dresden.....	First Thursday	W. H. Switzer.....	James H. McVean...	6	....	....	....	....	....	....	28	6	....
86	Golden.....	Rat Portage.....	Second Wed.....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	24	....	....
87	Antiquity.....	Toronto.....	Third Monday	R. B. Orr, M. D....	F. Blackburn.....	15	....	....	1	3	....	1	79	7	....
88	Lindsay.....	Sudbury.....	Third Thurs.....	B. Dingle.....	G. S. Patrick.....	7	....	....	1	....	....	....	38	6	....
89	Tuscan.....	Vancouver.....	Tues at f. m.....	P. Darrett.....	S. Harwood.....	13	2	....	....	....	....	....	37	15	....
90	Keystone.....	Port La Prairie	Second Wed.....	P. McNaughton...	S. H. Buxton.....	31	....	....	3	....	....	....	106	30	....
91	St. Lawrence.....	Brockville.....	First Wed.....	A. Whimster.....	B. M. Canniff.....	2	....	....	17	16	....	1	17	....	34
92	Corinthian.....	Boisevain.....	First We a. f. m.	B. J. Saunders.....	S. R. Stayner.....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	42	2	....
93	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	28	....	....

RETURNS OF SUBORDINATE CHAPTERS, 31st DECEMBER, 1896—CONTINUED.

No.	Name of Chapter.	Where held	Reg. Meeting.	First Principal Z.	Scribe E.	Admis- sions.	Joinings.	Restora- tions.	With- draws.	Suspen- sions.	Expu- sions.	Deaths.	Members.	Increase.	Decrease
102	Algonquin.....	Sault Ste Marie	Second Friday.	R. H. Knight.....	W. H. Hearst.....	2	1	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	45	3	.....
103	St. John's.....	North Bay.....	Third Monday.	J. T. Lovell.....	W. B. Way.....	9	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	48	9	.....
104	White Oak.....	Oakville.....	2nd Tue. a. f. m.	A. Hilmer.....	W. A. Smith.....	2	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	29	2	.....
105	Signet.....	Winnipeg.....	Fourth Wed.	E. H. Williams.....	D. McIntosh.....	16	1	1	4	3	.....	.....	75	11	.....
106	Alberta.....	Calgary.....	First Tuesday.	E. Wilson Brown.....	G. McDonald.....	7	.....	.....	4	2	.....	.....	50	1	.....
110	Warkworth.....	Warkworth.....	Wed. a. f. m.	.....	S. Oliver.....	3	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	27	3	.....
111	Zerodatha.....	Morden.....	First Wed.	Corbet Locke.....	Henry Meikle.....	4	.....	.....	1	.....	.....	.....	25	3	.....
112	St. John's.....	Morrisburg.....	Tu. on or a. f. m.	G. H. S. Kennedy.....	W. K. Farlinger.....	3	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	32	3	.....
113	Covenant.....	Farrans Point.....	Wed. a. f. m.	Ed. C. Robertson.....	J. M. Cook.....	12	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	2	40	10	.....
114	Bonnechere.....	Renfrew.....	Third Monday.	Rev. R. Campbell.....	M. McKinnon.....	7	.....	.....	1	.....	.....	1	25	5	.....
115	Brant.....	Paris.....	Third Friday.	C. M. Foley.....	S. Y. Taylor.....	4	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	31	4	.....
116	Maple.....	Carleton Place.....	First Tuesday.	Geo. McDonald.....	J. Rushworth.....	6	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1	30	4	.....
117	Berlin.....	Berlin.....	Third Monday.	A. S. Thornton.....	H. Wildfong.....	8	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	22	22	.....
118	North Star.....	Edmonton.....	Second Tues.	Hedley C. Taylor.....	T. Hourston.....	7	14	.....	8	.....	.....	.....	13	13	.....
119	King Cryus.....	Leamington.....	Second Wed...	G. C. Foster.....	J. S. Greenhill.....	12	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	12	12	.....
						759	72	17	213	186	.....	76	5142	498	136

RECAPITULATION.

No. of Chapters on the Roll.....	93
No. of Chapters represented.....	76
No. of Registrations.....	759
No. of Joinings.....	72
No. of Restorations.....	17
No. of Withdrawals.....	213
No. of Suspensions.....	186
No. of Deaths.....	76
Total No. of members on the roll.....	5142

NOTE—The five Chapters in Australia having withdrawn to join the

Grand Chapter of Victoria, their membership decreases our numbers 160

1 Chapter surrendered..... 34— 194

SUSPENDED U. M. C.

No. 8. D. R. Wilkie, Toronto.

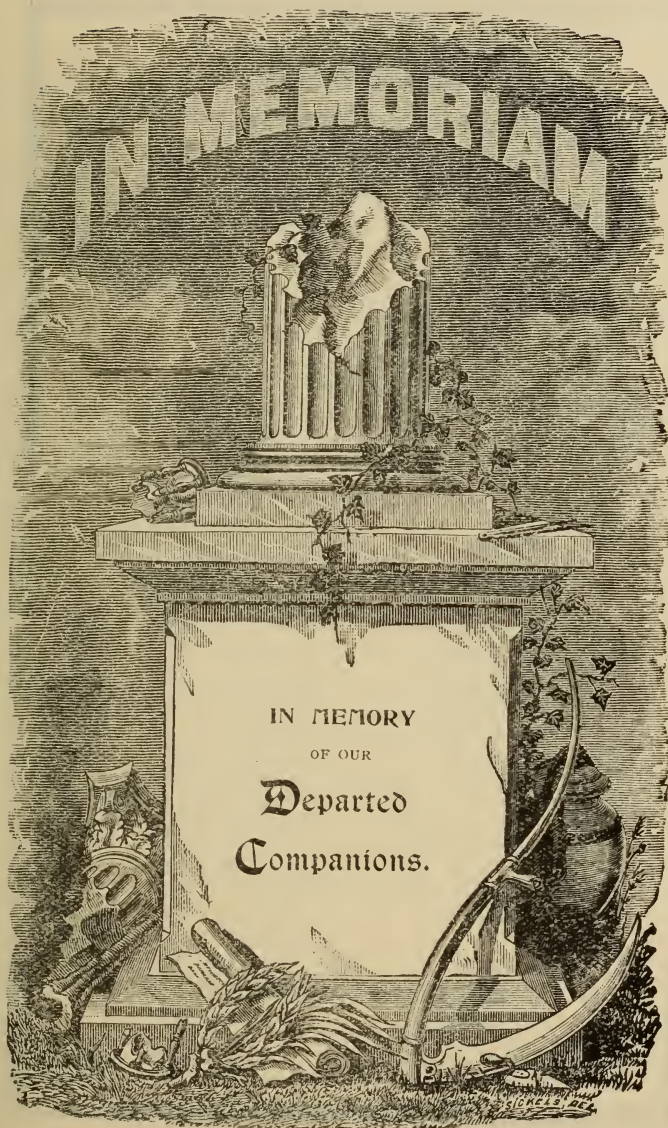
SUSPENDED N. P. D., 1895-6-7.

- No. 1. Geo. Lee, Chas. Stewart, Jos. Johnston, Wm. Pugh, E. Plant, J. Newlands.
- No. 2. Wm. Lawrence, J. H. Smith, T. A. Benneto, W. R. Fish, R. Jordan, jr., Thos. Richmond, G. S. Fisher, J. B. Pilkey, J. C. Malcolmson, W. J. McDonald, Fred Kelk, R. E. Guest, J. W. Russell, J. W. Brown, John Mills, W. M. Findlay, J. Burdette, Geo. Smith, J. J. Fisher, F. Hobbs, F. Turner, R. Douglas.
- No. 3. John Clifton, Jos. Hook, D. C. Kennedy, John Kincade, E. H. Rice, A. R. Rowat, Wm. Walker.
- No. 4. Chas. Cluthe, M. McEachren, John Poucher, W. R. Pearce.
- No. 5. W. Horner, A. S. K. Barclay, Geo. Angus, Alex. Irvine, H. E. Turner, W. Hayman, W. W. Gammage, J. Patterson, F. A. H. Fysh, J. L. Fitzgerald, F. Love, R. Walkenson, T. Gray, jr.
- No. 6. G. B. Flock, Thos. Brown, W. Hever, J. W. Crumpton, Jas. Harner, J. Poole, J. H. Winn.
- No. 7. W. E. Wimperley.
- No. 8. Chas. McDonald.
- No. 15. Geo. E. Young.
- No. 16. John Gray, Thos. Hodgins.
- No. 18. Wm. Smith, R. C. Tegart, J. G. Hay.
- No. 22. Chas. Plumb, jr., S. Hollingworth.
- No. 24. F. C. McDowell.
- No. 32. W. W. Goodall, R. H. S. McMillan, J. Sharpe.
- No. 36. T. J. Bird, S. P. Wigg.
- No. 45. T. K. Rutherford, Jas. Kerr, Thos. Dickens.
- No. 50. W. D. Palmer, D. S. Campbell, John Speirs, James Butters, John McRae.
- No. 53. Robt. Fraser, D. Trotter, A. N. Wood, J. M. Courtwright.
- No. 54. Alex. Hess, Alonzo Campbell, W. J. Robb, J. E. Squance
- No. 59. Thos. Sparham.
- No. 61. A. Sheriff, W. Smith, J. H. Young, G. W. Ward, John Elliot, D. McKay, T. E. Argue.
- No. 63. H. M. LeGear, W. S. Holmes, P. McDonald, Jas. Finlatter, F. Richardson.
- No. 64. M. W. Bridgeman, Wm. McGillivray, R. Bridge, H. W. Hobson, D. R. Pursell.

- No. 65. G. W. Weston, A. Patterson, P. T. Ross, H. E. Small
H. M. Kertland, D. J. Caton, E. M. Morphy, W. R.
Clarke.
- No. 71. Geo. C. Robbins, M. Barrett, A. Rice, H. J. Pickering,
F. C. Robbins.
- No. 67. H. Leighton, W. D. McMillan, W. A. Harvey, J. D.
Detureter.
- No. 79. J. K. Leslie, J. F. McIntosh, Geo. Williams, C. M.
Larsen, Jno. Glanville, D. Fisher, F. H. Anderson, J.
Ingram.
- No. 80. J. Barringer, Donald Grant, Chas. Fox, Wm. Clement,
W. J. Riggs, J. Coombes, F. Brooks, Henry George, R.
Lambert.
- No. 84. Hy. F. Gordon, D. T. Kincuid, W. McIndoe.
- No. 91. H. A. Yuille, G. Friedrich, J. Barnhardt, J. A. Ellis,
M. J. Lepper.
- No. 105. A. W. Van Etten, H. L. Watts.
- No. 106. W. R. Lindsay, H. B. Brazier.

RESTORATIONS.

- No. 4. J. T. Jones.
- No. 16. Wm. Hay, sr.
- No. 19. S. G. Dolson.
- No. 24. P. Cornell.
- No. 32. Isidore E. Eby.
- No. 36. Geo. L. Mitchell.
- No. 52. H. L. Watts.
- No. 67. Thos. Watson, S. L. Haight.
- No. 77. Wm. Simpson.
- No. 80. J. S. Edgar.
- No. 81. N. P. Dewar.
- No. 91. J. O. Orr.
- No. 105. Thos. H. Billman.



At Rest.

No. of Chap	NAME.	DATE.
1	D. Milne .....	.....
1	C. W. McDonald .....	.....
1	J. E. Watson .....	.....
2	H. McKeown .....	.....
2	James Hobbs .....	.....
2	L. Hatzfield .....	.....
2	C. A. Burden .....	.....
2	F. R. Despard .....	.....
3	George Hampross	5th April, 1896
3	John M. Norris	11th September, 1896...
4	George Hardy	23rd January, 1896....
4	John Ritchie	13th September, 1896...
4	Q. St. George	6th January, 1896.....
5	E. Burke	11th January, 1896.....
6	J. Holinan	14th September, 1895...
6	D. Robertson	12th October, 1895.....
6	W. Dundan	22nd October, 1895.....
6	A. Hobbs	December, 1895.....
6	E. Servos	2nd August, 1896.....
7	L. H. Henderson	19th July, 1895.....
8	James McIntyre	4th June, 1895.....
8	William Ledley	30th June, 1896.....
8	Robert King	13th October, 1896.....
8	E. W. Gardiner	19th November, 1896...
8	C. H. Dunning	29th November, 1896...
19	James Murray	27th August, 1895.....
19	H. H. Collier	15th July, 1895.....
19	C. Treble	18th February, 1896....
22	John Francis	5th December, 1895.....
22	D. Campbell	26th June, 1896.....
22	F. A. Nunn	3rd December, 1896.....
23	John Hutchinson	31st December, 1895....
24	James Ames	16th September, 1896...
24	F. W. Gearing	15th July, 1896.....
28	F. Rae	8th May, 1896.....
29	J. E. Croly	3rd June, 1896.....
30	W. R. Ridley	10th June, 1895.....
30	W. H. Murray	7th July, 1896.....
35	Thomas Houston .....	.....
40	J. E. McPherson	11th November, 1896...
40	William Gay	19th November, 1896...

At Rest.

No. of Chap.	NAME.	DATE.
41	William Thompson.....	3rd January, 1895.....
41	Hugh Kerr.....	31st March, 1896.....
45	W. W. Male.....	8th November, 1895....
48	H. Clow.....	6th October, 1896.....
52	C. L. Hawkins.....	5th August, 1895.....
53	T. Cochran.....	10th August, 1895.....
54	C. Moulthrop.....	18th October, 1895.....
54	B. Martin.....	17th September, 1896....
55	H. Woodington.....	14th May, 1896.....
56	A. Duncan.....	29th December, 1895....
56	R. Edgar.....	28th October, 1896.....
59	W. Dowsley.....	28th January, 1896.....
59	W. W. Robinson.....	3rd June, 1895.....
62	Frank McFarlane.....	February, 1896.....
63	James W. Rapley.....	18th March, 1896.....
65	T. F. Blackwood.....	25th May, 1896.....
65	C. W. Lee.....	December, 1896.....
67	R. Noaks.....	12th March, 1896.....
71	W. H. Nelson.....	18th September, 1896...
77	E. J. Ferman.....	14th January, 1896.....
77	F. W. Turner.....	May, 1896.....
79	G. H. Baillie.....	31st January, 1896.....
80	R. Bensley.....	1st May, 1896.....
83	J. C. Fox.....	3rd December, 1896.....
83	G. Irwin.....	25th October, 1896.....
83	J. K. Decatur.....	3rd November, 1896....
91	M. McLeod.....	24th July, 1895.....
113	Alex. B. Gray.....	16th August, 1896.....
113	R. H. Loucks.....	15th October, 1896.....
114	E. Mackay.....	12th May, 1896.....
116	R. Strong.....	11th February, 1896....

R. EX. COMPANION

T. F. BLACKWOOD

PAST G. S. N.

Died May 25th, 1896.

TORONTO.

R. EX. COMPANION

F. W. GEARING

P. G. SUPERINTENDENT

Died 15th July, 1896.

STRATFORD.

R. EX. COMPANION

E. BURKE

Died 11th January, 1896.

LONDON.

R. EX. COMPANION

JOHN C. FOX

P. G. SUPERINTENDENT

Died 3rd December, 1896.

ORANGEVILLE.

OFFICERS OF THE GRAND CHAPTER.

THE GRAND Z.

M. E. Comp. M. Walsh.....Ingersoll

THE GRAND H.

R. E. Comp. W. G. Reid.....Hamilton

THE GRAND J.

R. R. Comp. G. F. Shepley.....Toronto

GRAND SUPERINTENDENTS.

R. E. Comp.	S. H. Willison, Ridgetown,	St. Clair	Dist. No. 1
R. E.	Robert Scott, Petrolea,	London	" 2
R. E.	Peter H. Cox, Paris,	Wilson	" 3
R. E.	R. Mann, Orangeville,	Wellington	" 4
R. E.	T. McCallum, Hamilton,	Hamilton	" 5
R. E.	H. F. Sharp, St. Marys,	Huron	" 6
R. E.	G. Burch, St. Catharines,	Niagara	" 7
R. E.	A. G. Horwood, Toronto,	Toronto	" 8
R. E.	Isaac Huber, Bracebridge,	Georgian	" 9
R. E.	R. E. Wood, Peterboro,	Ontario	" 10
R. E.	S. C. Warner, Napanee,	Pr. Edward	" 11
R. E.	C. H. Fitzsimmons, Brockville,	St. Lawrence	" 12
R. E.	D. H. McIntosh, Carleton Pl.	Ottawa	" 13
R. E.	J. A. Sharp, Sudbury,	Algoma	" 14
R. E.	J. A. Carley, Winnipeg,	Manitoba	" 15
R. E.	H. H. Watson, Vancouver,	Br. Columbia	" 16
R. E.	N. J. Lindsay, Calgary,	Alberta	" 17

GRAND SCRIBE E.

M. E. Comp. Thos. Sargant.....Toronto

GRAND SCRIBE N.

R. E. Comp. John Lesslie.....Winnipeg

GRAND PRINCIPAL SOJOURNER.

R. E. Comp. E. W. Case.....Picton

GRAND TREASURER.

R. E. Comp. Hugh Murray.....Hamilton

GRAND REGISTRAR.

R. E. Comp. Wm. McKellar.....Stratford

V. E. Comp.	S. Brown, Toronto.....	Grand 1st Asst. Soj.
"	Wm. Partlo, Ingersoll.....	2nd "
R. E.	J. B. Nixon, Toronto.....	" Lecturer
V. E.	E. Miller Kincardine.....	" Sword Bearer
"	John Sinclair, Petrolea.....	" M. of 1st Veil
"	Judge Locke, Morden, Man..	" M. of 2nd Veil
"	Robt. Magness Hamilton....	" M. of 3rd Veil

V. E. Comp.	J. C. Brown, Orangeville.....	Grand M. of 4th Veil
"	" C. J. Wensley, Campbellford.	" Stan'd Bearer
"	" S. A. Luke, Ottawa.....	" Dir. of Cere's
"	" Wm. Elliott, Mitchell.....	" Organist.....
"	" David Spence, Peterboro....	" Pursuivant
"	" A. H. Campbell, London.....	" Steward
"	" D. Robertson, Eglington	" "
"	" W. J. Hallet, Barrie	" "
"	" D. Cochran, Ridgetown.....	" "

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE.

R. E. Comp. W. G. Reid, Hamilton, President.

BY VIRTUE OF OFFICE.

M. E. Comp.	John E. Harding.....	Stratford
"	" Donald Ross.....	Picton
"	" Robert Hendry, Jr.....	Kingston
"	" R. B. Hungerford.....	London
"	" J. J. Mason.....	Hamilton
"	" Daniel Spry.....	London
"	" Thomas Sargent.....	Toronto
"	" Henry Robertson.....	Collingwood
"	" Kivas Tully.....	Toronto
"	" J. Ross Robertson.....	Toronto
R. E.	" G. F. Shepley.....	Toronto

GRAND SUPERINTENDENTS.

R. E. Comp.	S. S. Willison, Ridgetown,	St. Clair Dist. No. 1
R. E.	" Robert Scott, Petrolea,	London " 2
R. E.	" Peter H. Cox, Paris,	Wilson " 3
R. E.	" R. Mann, Orangeville,	Wellington " 4
R. E.	" T. McCallum, Hamilton,	Hamilton " 5
R. E.	" H. F. Sharp, St. Marys,	Huron " 6
R. E.	" G. Burch, St. Catharines,	Niagara " 7
R. E.	" A. G. Horwood, Toronto,	Toronto " 8
R. E.	" Isaac Huber, Bracebridge,	Georgian " 9
R. E.	" R. E. Wood, Peterboro,	Ontario " 10
R. E.	" S. C. Warner, Napanee,	Pr. Edward " 11
R. E.	" C. H. Fitzsimmons, Brockville,	St. Lawrence " 12
R. E.	" D. H. McIntosh, Carleton Pl.	Ottawa " 13
R. E.	" J. A. Sharp, Sudbury,	Algoma " 14
R. E.	" Jas. A. Carley, Winnipeg,	Manitoba " 15
R. E.	" H. H. Watson, Vancouver,	B. Columbia " 16
R. E.	" N. J. Lindsay, Calgary,	Alberta " 17

EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS.

M. E. Comp.	Thos. Sargent, Toronto.....	Grand Scribe E.
R. E. Comp.	J. Lesslie, Winnipeg.....	Grand Scribe N.

ELECTED BY GRAND CHAPTER.

R. E. Comp.	D. F. Macwatt.....	Barrie
" "	Wm. Roaf	Toronto
" "	D. H. Martyn.....	Kincardine
" "	Wm. Birrell.....	Hamilton
" "	A. Shaw.....	Kingston

APPOINTED BY GRAND Z.

R. E. Comp.	G. J. Bennett	Toronto
" "	L. W. Burke.....	London
" "	L. A. Congdon	Dunnville
" "	W. B. McArthur.....	Ottawa
" "	A. R. Hargraft.....	Cobourg

SUB-COMMITTEES.

AUDIT AND FINANCE.

R. E. Comp. A. Shaw, Chairman ; S. S. Willison, Robt. Scott, R. Mann, R. E. Wood, D. H. McIntosh, C. H. Fitzsimmons, J. A. Sharp.

BENEVOLENCE.

M. E. Comp. D. Spry, Chairman ; J. E. Harding, R. E. Comp. J. S. Dewar.

GRIEVANCES AND APPEALS.

R. E. Comp. D. F. Macwatt, Chairman : John Lesslie, T. McCallum, H. F. Sharp, A. G. Horwood, S. C. Warner, A. R. Hargraft.

GRAND Z'S ADDRESS.

M. E. Comp. J. Ross Robertson, Chairman ; J. J. Mason, Robt. Hendrie, Jr., R. B. Hungerford, Kivas Tully, Donald Ross, H. Robertson.

WARRANTS.

R. E. Comp. G. F. Shepley, Chairman ; L. W. Burke, Jas. A. Carley, Peter H. Cox, L. A. Congdon, Wm. Birrell.

CONDITION OF CAPITULAR MASONRY.

R. E. Comp. G. J. Bennett, Chairman ; Wm. Roaf, S. C. Warner, G. B. McArthur, G. Burch, J. Huber.

FOREIGN CORRESPONDENCE.

R. E. Comp. G. J. Bennett.

LIST OF CHAPTERS—BY DISTRICTS.

ST. CLAIR DISTRICT No. 1.

Grand Superintendent—R. E. Comp. S. S. Willison, Ridgetown

No. 47, Wellington.. Chatham	No. 80, Ark.... Windsor
" 71, Pr. of Wales Amherst'g	" 88, Macnabb Dresden
" 73, Erie..... Ridgetown	" 119, King.Cyrus. Leam ton

LONDON DISTRICT, NO. 2.

Grand Superintendent—R. E. Comp. Robt. Scott, Petrolea.

No. 3, St. John's..... London	No. 54, Palestine... St. Thomas
" 5, St. George's.... "	" 87, Minnewawa... Parkhill
" 15, Wawanosh..... Sarnia	" 81, Aylmer Aylmer
" 53, Bruce... .. Petrolea	

WILSON DISTRICT, NO. 3.

Grand Superintendent—R. E. Comp. Peter H. Cox, Paris.

No. 18, Oxford.... Woodstock	No. 41, Harris Ingersoll
" 20, Mount Horeb Brantford	" 116, Brant..... Paris
" 23, Ezra Simcoe	

WELLINGTON DISTRICT, NO. 4

Grand Superintendent—R. E. Comp. R. Mann, Orangeville.

No. 32, Waterloo..... Galt	No. 67, Enterprise... Harriston
" 38, Seymour.... Shelbourne	" 83, Ionic..... Orangeville
" 40, Guelph..... Guelph	" 117, Berlin..... Berlin

HAMILTON DISTRICT, NO. 5.

Grand Superintendent—R. E. Comp. T. McCallum, Hamilton.

No. 2, Hiram Hamilton	No. 75, St. Clair..... Milton
" 6, St. John's.... "	" 104, White Oak.... Oakville

HURON DISTRICT, NO. 6.

Grand Superintendent—R. E. Comp. H. F. Sharp, St. Marys.

No. 24, Tecumseh.... Stratford	No. 63, Havelock. . Kincardine
" 30, Huron Goderich	" 66, Malloch..... Seaforth
" 46, St. James... St. Marys	" 84, Lebanon.... Wingham
" 50, Saugeen Mitchell	" 85, Exeter Exeter

NIAGARA DISTRICT, NO. 7.

Grand Superintendent—E. Comp. G. Burch, St. Catharines.

No. 19, Mt. Moriah.. St. Cath's	No. 64, Wilson..... Welland
" 29, McCallum... Dunnville	" 69, Grimsby..... Grimsby
" 55, Niagara..... Niagara	" 76, Mt. Nebo Niagara F. S.

TORONTO DISTRICT, NO. 8.

Grand Superintendent—R. E. Comp. A. G. Horwood, Toronto.

No. 4, S. And. & S. John Toronto	No. 65, St. Paul's..... Toronto
" 8, King Solomon.. "	" 77, Occident..... "
" 60, Doric..... Newmarket	" 79, Orient..... "
" 62, York..... Eglington	" 91, Antiquity..... "

GEORGIAN DISTRICT, NO. 9.

Grand Superintendent—R. E. Comp. Isaac Huber, Bracebridge.

No. 27, Manitou.. Collingwood	No. 70, Grand River Brace'ge
" 34, Signet..... Barrie	" 86, Macpherson.... Meaford
" 56, Georgian.. Owen Sound	" 103, St. John's... North Bay

ONTARIO DISTRICT, NO. 10.

Grand Superintendent—R. E. Comp. R. E. Wood, Peterboro.

No. 28, Pentalpha.... Oshawa	No. 45, Excelsior.... Colborne
" 35, Keystone..... Whitby	" 48, St. John's.... Cobourg
" 36, Corinthian... Peterboro	" 94, Midland..... Lindsay
" 37, Victoria.... Port Hope	" 110, Warkworth. Warkw'th

PRINCE EDWARD DISTRICT, NO. 11.

Grand Superintendent—R. E. Comp. S. C. Warner, Napanee.

No. 7, Moira..... Belleville	No. 44, Mount Sinai.. Napanee
" 26, St. Mark's.... Trenton	" 72, Keystone..... Stirling
" 31, Prince Edward.. Picton	

ST. LAWRENCE DISTRICT, NO. 12.

Grand Superintendent—E. Comp. C. H. Fitzsimmons,
Brockville.

No. 1, Anc. Frontenac and Cataraqui..... Kingston	No. 68, Maitland... N. Augusta
" 22, Grenville..... Prescott	" 100, St. Lawrence Brockville
" 59, Sussex..... Brockville	" 112, St. John's.. Morrisburg
	" 113, Covenant.. Farran's Pt.

OTTAWA DISTRICT, NO. 13.

Grand Superintendent—R. E. Comp. D. H. McIntosh, Carleton
Place.

No. 16, Carleton..... Ottawa	No. 114, Bonnechere.. Renfrew
" 58, Pembroke.... Mattawa	" 116, Maple.. Carleton Place
" 61, Granite..... Almonte	

ALGOMA DISTRICT, NO. 14.

Grand Superintendent—R. E. Comp. J. A. Sharp, Sudbury.

No. 82, Shuniah.. Port Arthur	No. 102, Algonquin.. Sault Ste.
" 90, Golden.... Rat Portage	Marie.
" 95, Tuscan..... Sudbury	

MANITOBA DISTRICT, NO. 15.

Grand Superintendent—R. E. Comp. Jas. A. Carley, Winnipeg.

No. 52, Prince Rupert. Winn'g	|	No. 105, Signet..... Winnipeg
" 99, Keystone..P. la Prarie	|	" 111, Zeradatha.... Morden
" 101, Corinthian..Boissevain	|	

BRITISH COLUMBIA DISTRICT, NO. 16.

Grand Superintendent—R. E. Comp. H. H. Watson, Vancouver.

No. 98, Vancouver..Vancouver

ALBERTA DISTRICT, NO. 17.

Grand Superintendent—R. E. Comp. N. J. Lindsay, Calgary.

No. 106, Alberta..... Calgary | No. 118, North Star. Edmonton

GRAND REPRESENTATIVES AND GRAND SECRETARIES.

GRAND REPRESENTATIVES.				GRAND SECRETARIES.	
<i>At Grand Chapter of Canada.</i>		<i>Jurisdiction.</i>	<i>From Grand Chapter of Canada.</i>	<i>Name.</i>	<i>Address.</i>
R. E.	Comp. W. B. McArthur.....	Alabama.....	E. Comp.	Jos. H. Johnson.....	Talladega
"	C. A. Humber.....	Arizona.....	R. E.	John M. Ormsby.....	Tucson
"	John McLaren.....	Arkansas.....	M. E.	S. A. Pernot.....	Van Buren
"	Samuel Wesley.....	California.....	M. E.	N. W. Spaulding.....	Oakland
"	A. McGinnis.....	Colorado.....	E.	Law'nce N. Greenleaf.....	Denver
"	T. C. Macnabb.....	Connecticut.....	E.	W. R. Higby.....	Bridgeport
"	A. Shaw.....	Delaware.....	E.	Geo. F. Young.....	Wilmington
M. E.	Hy. Robertson.....	District of Columbia.....	M. E.	P. McCoy, M.D.....	Washington
R. E.	A. B. Munson.....	Florida.....	"	Robert J. Perry.....	Key West
M. E.	R. B. Hungerford.....	Georgia.....	"	W. A. Graham.....	Fort Gaines
R. E.	Wm. Forbes.....	Illinois.....	"	C. H. Patton.....	Mt. Vernon
"	George Waugh.....	Indiana.....	E.	Thos. R. Marshall.....	Colb'a City
"	Geo. J. Bennett.....	Iowa.....	E.	L. J. Baker.....	Ottumwa
"	"	Ireland.....	E.	J. H. Neilson.....	Dublin
"	D. H. Martyn.....	Indian Territory.....	"	John Rennie.....	Lehigh
"	J. M. Gibson.....	Kansas.....	M. E.	Jacob DeWitt.....	Salina
M. E.	Thos. Sargent.....	Kentucky.....	"	H. R. French.....	Mt. Sterling
R. E.	John Creasor.....	Louisiana.....	R. E.	Andrew Hero, jr.....	New Orleans
"	B. Allen.....	Maine.....	"	Andrew J. Fuller.....	Bath
"	L. A. Congdon.....	Maryland.....	"	I. M. Carter.....	Baltimore
M. E.	John E. Harding.....	Massachusetts.....	E.	Edwin Wright.....	Boston
"	"	Michigan.....	R. E.	Orville G. Miller.....	St. Paul
R. E.	Wm. Downie.....	Minnesota.....	"	P. W. Rowland.....	Coffeeville
"	J. A. Morton.....	Mississippi.....	"	Erwin Ellis.....	St. Louis
"	D. F. Macwatt.....	Missouri.....	"	W. T. Whitmarsh.....	Omaha
"	"	Montana.....	"	Henry Dufrel.....	St. John, N.B.
M. E.	J. Ross Robertson.....	Nebraska.....	"	Alphus W. Baker.....	Lebanon
R. E.	John S. Sutherland.....	New Brunswick.....	"	W. H. McIlhenny.....	New York
"	John S. Dewar.....	New Hampshire.....	"	"	"
"	J. McLean Stevenson.....	New Jersey.....	"	"	"

M. E.	"	J. J. Mason.....	Hamilton	Nevada.....	R. E.	Comp. Frank Bell.....	Reno	C. C. Noteware.....	Carson City
M. E.	"	Hy. Robertson.....	Collingwood	New York.....	"	W. G. Thirkell.....	New York	Christopher G. Fox.....	Buffalo
R. E.	"	James Wilson.....	Toronto	North Carolina.....	E.	Chas. C. Clarke.....	New Bern	Horace H. Munson.....	Wilmington
"	"	Wm. G. Bell.....	Winnipeg	North Dakota.....	M. E.	"	"	F. J. Thompson.....	Fargo
"	"	I. Moodie.....	Hamilton	Nova Scotia.....	E.	Neil McKelvie.....	Summerside	Alex. Ross.....	Halifax
V. E.	"	Hugh A. Mackay.....	Berlin	Ohio.....	R. E.	C. A. Woodward.....	Cleveland	Chas. C. Keifer.....	Urbana
R. E.	"	J. Baker.....	Stratford	Oregon.....	E.	Donald McKay.....	Portland	James F. Robinson.....	Eugene
"	"	Donald McPhie.....	Hamilton	Pennsylvania.....	R. E.	Thos. R. Patton.....	Philadelphia	Charles Cary.....	Philadelphia
M. E.	"	Daniel Spry.....	London	Quebec.....	M. E.	Will. H. Whyte.....	Montreal	Will. H. Whyte.....	Montreal
"	"	M. Walsh.....	Ingersoll	Rhode Island.....	R. E.	W. R. Greene.....	Providence	W. R. Greene.....	Providence
R. E.	"	J. K. Kerr.....	Toronto	Scotland.....	"	The Rt. Hon. the Earl of Kin- tore, Carleton Club, Lon., E.	Edinburgh	Robt. S. Brown.....	Edinburgh
"	"	G. V. T. Greenhill.....	Windsor	South Carolina.....	E.	J. M. Bratten, M. D., Yorkville	Yorkville	Albert E. Fugle.....	Columbus
"	"	A. E. Cooper.....	London	Tennessee.....	"	Robt. I. Sedam, St. Lawrence	St. Lawrence	Geo. A. Pettigrew.....	Flandreau
"	"	E. T. Malone.....	Toronto	Texas.....	E.	George Lopaz.....	Texas	Geo. Lopas, jr.....	Houston
"	"	I. B. Nixon.....	Toronto	Vermont.....	E.	C. W. Whitcomb, Proctors'vle	Proctors'vle	War'n J. Reynolds.....	Burlington
"	"	Alex. Patterson.....	Toronto	Virginia.....	M. E.	Rev. G. H. Ray.....	Lynchburg	James P. Blanks.....	Petersburg
"	"	David Taylor.....	Ottawa	Washington Territory	"	Stephen W. Poe.....	Grafton	Yancy C. Bialock, Walla Walla	Walla Walla
"	"	Gavin Stewart.....	Woodstock	West Virginia.....	R. E.	Odell S. Long.....	Wheeler	Odell S. Long.....	Wheeler
"	"	"	"	Wisconsin.....	M. E.	A. J. Wallace.....	Durant	John W. Laflin.....	Milwaukee

CHAIRMEN FOREIGN CORRESPONDENCE.

<i>Jurisdiction.</i>	<i>Name.</i>	<i>Address.</i>	<i>Jurisdiction.</i>	<i>Name.</i>	<i>Address.</i>
Alabama.....	Palmer J. Pilans.....	Mobile.....	Montana.....	Cornelius Hodges.....	Helena.....
Arizona.....	Charles A. Belden.....	.....	Nebraska.....	Charles J. Phelps.....	Omaha.....
Arkansas.....	R. J. Laughlin.....	Bentonville.....	New Brunswick.....	A. S. Wait.....	Newport.....
California.....	W. A. Davis.....	San Francisco.....	New Hampshire.....	George B. Edwards.....	Jersey City.....
Canada.....	George J. Bennett.....	.....	New Jersey.....	Frank Bell.....	Reno.....
Colorado.....	E. Leve N. Foster.....	Georgetown.....	Nevada.....	George J. Gardiner.....	Syracuse.....
Connecticut.....	John H. Barlow.....	Birmingham.....	New York.....	James Southgate.....	Durham.....
Delaware.....	V. H. Harrison.....	Washington.....	North Carolina.....	F. J. Thompson.....	Fargo.....
District of Columbia.....	W. R. Singleton.....	Washington.....	North Dakota.....	Alex. Ross.....	Hallifax.....
Florida.....	Enos Wasgate.....	Jacksonville.....	Nova Scotia.....	S. Stacker Williams.....	Halifax.....
Georgia.....	W. S. Ramsay.....	Dublin.....	Ohio.....	J. M. Hodson.....	Toledo.....
Illinois.....	John M. Pearson.....	Godfrey.....	Oregon.....	M. H. Henderson.....	Portland.....
Indiana.....	Thomas B. Long.....	Terra Haute.....	Pennsylvania.....	Will H. Whyte.....	Philadelphia.....
Iowa.....	T. R. Ercanbrack.....	Annamosa.....	Quebec.....	Rev. W. W. Rugg.....	Montreal.....
Ireland.....	J. S. Murray.....	Atoka.....	Rhode Island.....	Albert E. Fugie.....	Providence.....
Indian Territory.....	J. DeWitt.....	Salina.....	South Carolina.....	Lewis G. Levoy.....	Columbia.....
Kansas.....	James W. Staton.....	Brookville.....	South Dakota.....	H. H. Ingersoll.....	Webster.....
Kentucky.....	Rev. H. C. Duncan.....	Alexandria.....	Tennessee.....	John N. Terrel.....	Texas.....
Louisiana.....	Rev. H. C. Duncan.....	.....	Texas.....	Marshall O. Perkins.....	Windor.....
Maine.....	E. T. Drummond.....	Portland.....	Vermont.....	Yancey C. Blalock.....	Walla Walla.....
Maryland.....	E. T. Schultz.....	Baltimore.....	Virginia.....	Odell S. Long.....	Charleston.....
Massachusetts.....	Seranus Bowen.....	Boston.....	Washington.....	Wm. C. Swain.....	Milwaukee.....
Michigan.....	Jefferson S. Conover.....	Coldwater.....	West Virginia.....	.....	.....
Minnesota.....	Thomas Montgomery.....	St. Paul.....	Wisconsin.....
Mississippi.....	P. M. Savery.....	Tupelo.....	Scotland.....
Missouri.....	Wm. H. Mayo.....	St. Louis.....			

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APPENDIX.



REPORT ON
FOREIGN CORRESPONDENCE.

1896.

To the M. E. the Grand Z. and the Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of Canada.

With the earnest hope that it will prove a means of entertainment and instruction for the Companions of Canada, your Committee respectfully submits the accompanying review of the proceedings of the Grand Chapters received up to the close of the year.

The report has grown beyond its usual dimensions owing mainly to the long interval necessitated by the change in date of the Convocation of Grand Chapter and in part to the variety of material offered for inspection.

Recent changes authorized by this Grand Chapter have naturally attracted the notice of sister jurisdictions ; some approve, others condemn and not a few are content to note the cause and patiently await the effect. In either case the views expressed will be perused attentively.

The diversity of opinion brought about by Canada's action in eliminating the Past Master's degree from the Capitular system will excite more than ordinary interest, and while it is gratifying to observe the frequency with which that action has been applauded, it is also worthy of remark that the supporters of the degree are, for the most part, impelled to their position by feelings of association or sentiment or by fealty to the General Grand Chapter and its regulations. The merits of the degree or its claims to antiquity rarely find a place in the controversy.

It may be inferred from a comprehensive view of the situation that the spark of discontent which has flickered with more or less activity for some years has

been fanned into a living flame. If the Past Master's degree is permitted to exist it will have an unpleasant time of it.

The generous forbearance and fraternal courtesy that greeted our maiden effort in the field of correspondence, combined to afford a most agreeable surprise, and, with the kind approval of our Companions at home, induced us to undertake the task once more. That it will meet with similar favour is not our expectation but our hope.

“Oft expectation fails, and most oft there
Where most it promises; and oft it hits
Where hope is coldest.”

GEO. J. BENNETT,
Chairman.

Alabama.

Chapters, 41 ; Members, 1,007.

The Sixty-ninth Annual Convocation was held at Montgomery, December 2nd and 3rd, 1895, with an average representation. M. E. Comp. John G. Smith, of Birmingham, Grand High Priest, presiding.

The volume of business which engaged the Companions for a couple of days might, without exaggeration, be classed a pocket edition. There was little of local interest and less to attract attention from the outside.

The address of the Grand High Priest for this reason calls for passing comment only. Three pages are devoted to fraternal admonition and tributes to Companions who have “gone over.” His official visitations revealed to his “surprise and astonishment” two Chapters only with work on hand. Hence he remarks as have many before him :

“The want of interest that pervades some of the Chapters does not, in my opinion, come from a want of interest in the Order, but for the want of zeal and the proper instruction of the officers.”

There are working Companions on this continent

who after a year or two's experience discerned that perfection and uniformity were not to be attained by oral instruction alone. The G. H. P. after twenty years of observation concludes to agree with them, for he says:

"After a working experience of twenty years in the Chapters of this State, I feel it incumbent on me to frankly say to you that there is a stern necessity for the ritual of the General Grand Chapter in this jurisdiction. My observation in life has been that there is but a small number of men who can ever obtain the work correctly from mouth to ear. Men not only hear but see differently, hence in these busy days of the world it is almost impossible for any two men who get the work from hearing to have or practice the same work. Again, there are but few men who have or could spare the time necessary to make them proficient workers without help.

I have carefully studied the situation and watched the growth of the Chapters in this State, as well as those of our sister jurisdictions, and I am fully satisfied that they have advantages and have reached points in proficiency which we can never obtain unless we get out of the old rut and adopt the same methods they have. Something must be done to start us up grade again; hence, to meet the necessities of the hour, I feel it to be my duty to recommend that this Grand Chapter authorize the Secretary to purchase of the Grand Secretary of the General Grand Chapter of the United States a sufficient number of rituals to supply three to each Chapter, the same to be distributed under such regulations as may be prescribed by the General Grand Chapter of the United States of America."

The members of the Committee on the address, however, had not yet reached the period of awakening, and as the Companions of Grand Chapter endorsed the report presented by them, it is inferred that the Grand High Priest was in a hopeless minority. The report closes with this alarming clause:

"Your committee cannot agree with the M. E. Grand High Priest in his views as expressed in that portion of the address which recommends the use of printed rituals in the subordinate Chapters, believing as we do that it will lead to great confusion and possible disaster."

Later on the Finance Committee recommended a series of resolutions submitted by a Companion "proposing a plan for furthering the interests of Capitular Masonry in Alabama." Among these are found:

"1. The Committee on Work shall consist of five members, the additional two members to be appointed by the M. E. Grand High Priest upon a Certificate from the Chairman of the Committee on Work, that the Companion is competent to exemplify the work and give the lectures adopted by this Grand Chapter.

2. It shall be the duty of the M. E. Grand High Priest to provide, so far as practicable, that each chartered Chapter in this Grand Jurisdiction shall be visited and inspected by a member of the Committee on Work at least once during each year.

3. Whenever any such visit and inspection is made, the Inspecting Officer shall make a full and detailed report thereof to the M. E. Grand High Priest, showing :

(a.) Whether the officers of the Chapter are familiar with the work and duties of their several stations.

(b.) Whether the Chapters are equipped with the necessary paraphernalia and accessories for conferring the degrees properly.

(c.) Whether the books and accounts are properly and accurately kept.

(d.) Whether the Chapter has a Book of Marks, and whether all the members have recorded marks.

(e.) The number of meetings held and the number exalted during the year preceding the inspection ; the number of members on the roll, and any other matters of interest to the Grand Chapter.

(f.) The Inspecting Officer will make such suggestions as to the improvement of the work or condition of the Chapter as he may deem proper.

4. The expense of such visits shall be paid by the Grand Treasurer on a warrant drawn by the Grand Secretary and countersigned by the M. E. Grand High Priest, and the Grand Secretary shall keep a record thereof and submit the same to the Grand Chapter at each annual Grand Convocation."

And if the officers of the Chapter visited are discovered to be "familiar with the work and duties" the inspecting officer of course assumes that he has witnessed ceremonies which are the result of much acute observation and mental labor and is prepared to report that within the portals of that Chapter nothing is known that could possibly lead to "great confusion and possible disaster."

"Has a Chapter the right to charge a fee for granting Dimit to a Companion who is in good standing and has paid all dues and assessments to the Chapter?"

The foregoing question by a Companion was answered in the negative by the Jurisprudence Committee to whom it was referred.

There was nothing offered for the consideration of the Committee on Suspensions, Expulsions and Appeals, which reported :

“This certainly demonstrates that the Royal Arch Masons in this Grand Jurisdiction are at peace with one another, and that our Chapters are obedient to the laws, rules and regulations of the Grand Chapter and of the Most Excellent General Grand Chapter of the United States, as well as living up to the principles of Capitular Masonry.”

The veteran Chairman of Correspondence, Companion Pillans, graciously acceded to the unanimously expressed wish of his Companions to continue at the post which has made his name familiar throughout the Capitular jurisdictions, and furnishes a report instructive and entertaining as usual. He opens :

“After the expression of such kind sentiments toward your reporter (however illy deserved) as were uttered at the last Annual Convocation, he would indeed prove himself of base metal did he not determine while he had strength, to devote it to the service of this M. E. Grand Chapter.”

Needless to say the determination is hailed with universal gratification. He reviews the proceedings of forty-four Grand Chapters, leading off with the General Grand, in which however he considerably refrains from touching on Fort Riley.

He remarks under Arkansas upon the use of printed rituals :

“In early days, by tradition was the work conveyed, and by this means only did we obtain it ; but the world is faster now and our brethren cannot spare the time thus orally to be instructed.”

Which leads to the suspicion that the Grand High Priest was not in a minority of one. We note however that Comp. Pillans takes frequent opportunity of echoing the anti-cipher sentiment.

To Canada he devotes a goodly share of his attention and quotes liberally from the Grand Z's address, which commands his admiration :

"The G. H. Priest, or as he is styled here, G. Z., J. Ross Robertson, in his address demonstrates that he is infused with zeal, and that his disposition is such that he complies literally with the biblical injunction, 'Whatsoever thy hand findeth to do, do it with all thy might.' We have never before met with a more energetic or comprehensive address on Masonic subjects or one that would probably be productive of more good to the Craft. Doubtless there are some who smart under the official castigation, but the Craft will be benefited."

Kindly he refers to his old reportorial colleague, M. E. Comp. H. Robertson, and welcomes his successor :

"Companion Henry Robertson, with whom we have so long held this peculiar intercourse, gracefully retired after his twenty-seventh report and dropped his mantle on no inferior shoulders. His report is marked by ability and fearlessness, as well as fairness, and there is much in it we had designed noticing, but we have spent so much time with the G. Z. that we must forego the pleasure we had anticipated from the report. Our finances are not large and we must heed the cry of the printer."

John G. Smith, Birmingham, Grand High Priest ;
H. Clay Armstrong, Montgomery, Grand Secretary.

Arizona.

Chapters, 4 ; Members, 188.

At the City of Prescott, on November 13th, 1895, the Grand Chapter met in Sixth Annual Convocation, M. E. Comp. Francis Asbury Shaw, Grand High Priest, presiding.

If the Companions selected to fill the exalted office of Grand High Priest are average samples of the patriotic element of Arizona, then that fair territory has nothing to fear. M. E. Comp. Oliver, at the previous Convocation, set out in his address to extol the beauties of the city of Phoenix and waxed eloquent on the qualifications of its people and the resources of its surroundings. Comp. Shaw on this occasion makes it plain that the meeting place of Grand Chapter in 1895 is not going to take a back seat from any other spot in Arizona :

"Here, nestled in its pine-clad hills, surrounded by veins of the precious metals and mountain scenery of surpassing loveli-

ness, in the beautiful city of Prescott, celebrated for the refinement and hospitality of its citizens."

He expresses gratitude for immunity from death, pestilence and famine, and for the undisturbed harmony that characterizes the jurisdiction. He states that he constantly attended his own Chapter, but

"I have been unable to visit any of the other Chapters, chiefly because 'chill penury repressed the noble rage.'

The distances are great, and travelling at six cents per mile is expensive. The sacrifice is too great for one of moderate means to make, unless the necessity is urgent. And, indeed, the constitution and our ritual are so well understood and thoroughly inculcated that, except for fraternal courtesy and the cultivation of the social amenities, a Grand visitation would be unnecessary."

All the same the Committee on the address congratulated the G. H. P. on "the efficient manner with which he has discharged the duties incumbent upon the high office."

The new ritual adopted by the General Grand Chapter he does not favor, as he believes that the California article now in use is beautiful enough to meet all requirements. The Jurisprudence Committee subsequently endorsed his view.

The constitution was amended to provide that the Annual Convocation be held on the Wednesday following the second Tuesday in November in each year at the same place as shall be held the Annual Communication of Grand Lodge.

It is a matter of sincere regret that the proceedings lack the report on Correspondence, a duty which Comp. Belden had worthily assumed on the death of Comp. Lighthizer. Although there is nothing advanced during the convocation touching upon the omission, it is probably indicated in the financial report which is certainly not in a condition to admit of luxuries. With but four working Chapters possessing a paying membership of something less than two hundred, it is hardly to be expected that all the funds can be conveniently handed over to the printer. Nevertheless there is

reason to hope that in a land of such wealth, hospitality and refinement, as the addresses of the Grand High Priests declare it to be, it is only a question of time until the Grand Chapter will be in a position to do justice to itself and its talented members. Meantime Arizona has the most cordial good wishes for its rapid growth and advancement in the good work, from its northerly sister.

Rickmer N. Fredericks, Prescott, Grand High Priest;
George J. Roskrue, Tucson, Grand Secretary.

Arkansas.

Chapters, 66; Members, 2,050.

The Forty-sixth Annual Convocation, at the city of Little Rock, on the 21st November, 1895, witnessed a large attendance of representatives. Grand High Priest James M. Harkey, presided, and in his address congratulated Grand Chapter on "peace within our borders and at peace with all the fraternity."

There is apparently not much squeamishness in Arkansas on the subject of printed ritual. The Grand High Priest says:

"I have had many enquiries about our ritual of secret work from other jurisdictions, asking me if they could by any means procure a copy. I answered saying that our law would not allow the sale of our ritual. I do not believe it would do any harm to sell them if it could be so arranged as not to interfere with the law and regulations in the case."

As a visitor he does not seem to have been a brilliant success, for he bluntly declares:

"Owing to the press of business and scarcity of money, I have been unable to visit any of the subordinate Chapters officially."

He, however, found time to stir up the delinquent Chapters by mail. His action is thus recorded:

"I have written two or three letters to each of the subordinate Chapters that are in arrears for returns and dues. Some answered my letters and some few are silent."

I recommend to this Grand Chapter, if possible, to send some one to all the Chapters that are in arrears for returns and dues and revive them if possible ; if not, to take up their charter and all their belongings and forward to the Grand Secretary."

Some one, of course, who will not be handicapped with business or a consumptive "wad."

Here is a curious story of a lost Chapter which even the Committee on Charters, or indeed any other committee, failed to remark on subsequently :

"Companion S. A. Scott, of Merriweather Chapter, at Grand Lake, says that several years ago they got an order to revive their Chapter and Brother Millard failed to come and help them and the matter was dropped. He says we are now anxious to revive it. Can we go ahead under the old order? Says their charter is locked up in Brother Cohen's safe. Please inform us about the matter, and can you sell us a key to secret work? On examination I could not find that there ever was such a Chapter as Merriweather, and I referred the whole matter to the Grand Secretary and requested him to answer it. I presume he did so. I have never heard from them since."

The Committee on Masonic Law and Usage accepted the suggestion of the G. H. P. regarding rituals and recommended that three be sold to each subordinate Chapter, and one to each foreign Grand Jurisdiction requiring same strict enquiry to be made in each case. As Grand Chapter acceded to the recommendation, Arkansas may expect to be the target for some sharp attacks in the future, which it will probably survive.

A lamentable shrinkage is observed in Comp. Laughlin's report on Correspondence which he attributes to lack of material, excusing himself by saying "there are no important discussions this year and little outside of the regular routine proceedings."

We are a little new to this business ourselves and hesitate occasionally at expressing a "hear, hear," but it would take a whole twelve-month's course of nerve tonic to enable us to venture on such a brief but sweeping declaration as the above. Comp. Laughlin's modesty, or perhaps discretion, is probably concealing the true cause of depriving his Companions of the periodical

feast of reason, and his brethren of the pen, the opportunity of enjoying a friendly bout.

As a defence of the action of his Grand Chapter in the matter of printed ritual, he appends a solitary quotation, that of Comp. Duncan of Louisiana, which we reproduced in a former report.

He adds, too, his customary statistical table of the Royal Craft, part of which we borrow :

GRAND CHAPTER.	No. Subordinates.	No. Members.	Exalted,	Affiliated.	Reinstated.	Dimitted.	Dropped. Suspended. Expelled.	Dead.	Net Gain.
Total in United States....	2,567	193,279	13,010	1,867	797	3,682	4,370	2,721	5,181
Canada.....	98	4,977	680	42	18	127	86	58	469
New Brunswick.....	7	402	19	1	...	7	2	5	6
Nova Scotia.....	14	664	59	8	...	27	8	10	22
Quebec.....	11	472	42	...	...	8	16	5	13
Total in North America...	2,697	199,793	13,810	1,918	815	3,851	4,482	2,799	5,691

James H. Roten, Mammoth Spring, Grand High Priest ; James A. Henry, Little Rock, Grand Secretary.

California.

Chapters, 77 ; Members 5,178.

On the morning of the 21st April, 1896, the Forty-second Annual Convocation of the Grand Chapter was called to order in the Masonic Temple, San Francisco, by M. E. Comp. Adolphus Hewel, Grand High Priest, who, to judge by his able and exhaustive address, had presided over the Royal Craft with singular ability during an eventful period.

Feelingly he refers to the death of his predecessor M. E. Comp. Crawford who was called away a short two months after relinquishing the position. He also pays tribute to the memory of Comp. William C. Belcher, Past Grand Master, whose aid he had successfully sought in certain litigation involving the Grand Chapter, but who also was suddenly summoned beyond the veil.

He decided that a ballot was illegal where a box was used from which all the black balls had previously been removed, although the discovery was not made known to the High Priest until after the closing of the Chapter.

The following questions were submitted and with his reply are appended :

“ Question: (a) Is an application properly before the Chapter when the name is not signed in full?

(b) Is an application properly before the Chapter when the fee does not accompany the same?

(c) Does it heal an irregular application by supplying the omissions in the absence of the applicant?

(d) When an applicant has been rejected on the grounds above stated (see a, b, c. above), if said application should be declared irregular, does the applicant stand before the Chapter as though no ballot had been taken?

Answer: (a) Anything is properly before the Chapter which the Excellent High Priest brings before it; but a petition not signed by the applicant with his full name, should not be received by him. (*See General Reg., No. 9*) Such a petition should be returned to the applicant for correction by the order of the High Priest.

(b) The fee must in all cases accompany the petition. (*Sec. 5 of Art. XVII, Constitution*) It is the duty of the Secretary not to receive a petition without the necessary fees; if he does so, and presents the same to the High Priest for action, without disclosing the fact that the fees do not accompany it, he thereby makes himself responsible to the Chapter for the amount; if he discloses the fact of the non-payment of the fees at the time, then the High Priest should order the petition returned to the applicant, unless some member present pays the same.

(c) It does not as to (a), but does as to (b).

(d) He stands as though he had made no application.”

A legacy from a previous Grand Convocation, was the condition of Benicia Chapter, of which the G. H. P. tried to obtain satisfactory information by mail, and failing in this, journeyed to the place himself. He relates what he found :

“ I examined the records, from which it appeared that some time in January, and again in March, a number of the Companions had met and attempted to transact business; the Chapter, however, had not been opened on any degree. Upon inquiry, I ascertained that such was their usual custom. When they

met, the Chapter would be called from refreshment to labour, and they would proceed immediately to the transaction of business. On looking over the records, I found that such had been their usual mode of procedure for more than ten years last past. The Secretary informed me that, as far as he knew, the Chapter had not been opened by (what he called 3x3) since 1890, on which occasion they adjourned without closing. From what I could gather from him, the Chapter at the present time, has no officer or member who knows sufficient of the work to properly open or close a Chapter of R. A. M. Their minutes and records are in a most deplorable state, disclosing the grossest ignorance of the principles on which the business of a Chapter should be conducted; for which, however, I am indisposed to throw much blame on the present officers, as this state of things has descended to them as an heirloom."

He referred the matter to the Grand Chapter and the committee to whom it was entrusted recommended that it be left to the incoming G. H. P. Deplorable hesitancy. The circumstances warranted a speedy funeral unaccompanied by any ceremonial.

From the address and subsequent proceedings, it is very plain that the Royal Craft in California has been having a really lively and interesting time. The reptile which it was fondly believed had been killed was only "scotched." Cerneauism like a pestilence, has broken out afresh and kept the chief executive moving at a rapid pace.

"In the year A. D., 1884, our late Companion, Leonidas E. Pratt, then Grand High Priest of this Grand Chapter, in his annual address, called the attention of this Grand Body, in strong and forcible language, to the 'selling, peddling, and hawking of what were pretended and alleged to be, Scottish Rite degrees, under the pretended authority of a spurious body (self-styled) the Cerneau Council, or the Supreme Council of the A. A. S. R. for the United States of America, their territories and dependencies,' by a lot of peripatetic Masonic sharps, quacks and charlatans, who, for their own base ends and profit, made merchandise of Freemasonry. In consequence of this plain and vigorous exposition of this Masonic fraud, this Grand Chapter, at its thirtieth Annual Convocation, enacted 'General Regulation, No. 21,' defining thereby what it acknowledged and recognized as legitimate Masonry, and declaring further: 'That any Royal Arch Mason who should thereafter receive, confer, communicate, or sell, or be present at or assist in the conferring or communicating, or who solicit any one to take, apply for or receive any so-called Masonic degree or order of Knighthood, in any assemblage of men whatever, unless it be held under the

authority of one of the Masonic Bodies thereinbefore recognized as legitimate, should be expelled from all the rights and privileges of Royal Arch Masonry. ”

The Grand High Priest states that shortly after his term commenced he received from the H. P. of Sacramento Chapter, a communication enclosing charges against a member for a violation of General Regulation No. 21, or in other words, that Companion Powell Samuel Lawson had allied himself with, and was laboring for, the Cerneau rite. A request was also made, for obvious reasons, that another Chapter, that at Stockton, should receive the charges and conduct the trial. In compliance therewith, the order was promptly made, and Stockton Chapter was directed to proceed. Preliminaries were arranged in proper form and the date of trial decided, when lo, proceedings were summarily stayed by an injunction from a judge of the Superior Court at the instance of the accused, who not only made his direct accusers parties to the suit, but included the Grand officers and the entire membership of Stockton Chapter, as defendants.

The plaintiff's complaint, as set forth in the voluminous allegation, amounted to a charge of persecution and conspiracy and was very ingeniously compiled.

The Grand High Priest placed the matter in competent hands with the result that after a four days argument

“ Judge Catlin, in a very able and exhaustive opinion, reviewing therein the entire subject of contention, decided every point involved in favor of the defendant, generally holding that in all matters appertaining to Masonry, such as the qualification for, admission to, or continuance of membership and the standing of members within the Order were matters within the exclusive jurisdiction of Masonic tribunals.”

Stockton Chapter then proceeded to deal with Mr. Lawson, who applied for a renewal of the injunction which was denied. The accused was found guilty and recommended for expulsion. From the finding he appealed, advancing half a dozen reasons in support, all of which were rejected by the Committee on Grievances as devoid of merit, and the Chapter's sentence was

approved and ratified. Thus ended Comp. Lawson's Capitular existence after an active membership of over thirty-five years. Lured by the attractions of the spider's parlour, he suffered himself to be let in and, like the foolish fly, died after an ignoble struggle.

Meantime the spider was doing a rushing business at the old stand, and actively decorating his apartment for other victims. The Grand High Priest directed charges to be preferred against eight Companions of Woodlawn Chapter and their disposition has yet to be recorded.

Not weary in well doing, the G. H. P. turned his attention to the Cerneau missionary, Granville A. Frambes, and to Stockton Chapter he again assigned the honor and distinction of executioner in ordinary.

"Immediately after my return home I had inquiries instituted through Comp. Davies, as to the Masonic standing of the above named individual; learning that he was a Royal Arch Mason in good standing, a member of Oceanac Chapter, No. 51, at Pentwater, in the state of Michigan, I issued an order to the High Priest of Sacramento Chapter, No. 3, under whose jurisdiction said Frambes resided, to have proper charges preferred against him, for violation of General Regulation No. 21. This order was duly complied with and such charges, after being delivered to said High Priest, were by him referred to me for transference to some other Chapter for trial. Good and sufficient reason appearing to me, to warrant such action, and being satisfied of the necessity and expediency thereof, I transferred said charges to Stockton Chapter for trial. In Stockton Chapter a trial was had, and resulted in the said G. A. Frambes being found guilty of the offense charged, and his expulsion from all the rights and privileges of Royal Arch Masonry."

Closing his relation of this unpleasant and unfortunate episode, the Grand High Priest says :

"I have enforced obedience to this regulation simply because it was the law ; and permit me to say, that whatever may have been my own views originally, or whatever might have been said generally, as to the policy and expediency of its enactment, it being the law, it must now be enforced as such. In my humble judgment, this Grand Chapter, having heretofore, by the enactment of this general regulation, committed itself to an attitude of hostility towards all fraudulent, clandestine and illegitimate (so-called) Masonry, it cannot, now that the issue has been made, the challenge accepted, and, when Masons

owing allegiance and obedience to it, have risen in open rebellion, with honor to itself, recede from the position it has deliberately assumed until it has compelled obedience to its laws and edicts, quelled and extinguished all insubordination and disobedience among the members of the order, subject to its authority, and thus vindicated its status as the supreme law-making power of Royal Arch Masonry within this jurisdiction.

Comp. Davies, in his report on Correspondence referring to this Cerneau matter, thus sums up :

“ One Grand Chapter during the past year has had an unusual experience, one not laid down in the text books of the fraternity. The officers and many of the members of the Grand Body having been summoned to appear and answer why they should not be forever enjoined from rendering judgment for a violation of its edicts in conformity with Masonic law.

The Companion in his complaint filed in the Superior Court alleges this Grand Chapter to be influenced by schemers and conspirators, who, in the pursuance of their conspiracy, caused certain acts to be passed which were unconstitutional, illegal, and in violation of the landmarks and usages of Royal Arch Masonry, and unless restrained by the majesty of the law, he feared injury in his personal and property rights, etc. The case has been urged and submitted, and in an exhaustive opinion in the case of Powell S. Lawson vs. A. Hewel, et als., Judge Catlin, not a Mason, tells Comp. Lawson that the edict complained of must stand or fall by the doctrine of Masonry as defined, not by the courts, but by the authorities of Masonry. And that while the Court may and should protect property rights, it cannot perform even that function when it cannot be performed without usurping an unwarranted power over the consciences and personal liberties of the citizen.

Lawson has taken an appeal to the Supreme Court, so that we only know the end is not yet ; but as the eminent Jurist and Mason, Bro. J. H. Drummond, writes : ‘ I think it is a duty we owe to Masonry, whenever brethren resort to the law that they should be taught that their remedy lies in the tribunals of the craft.’ So say we all.”

The report referred to is, as usual, a most interesting composition.

Under Indiana he notices Comp. Long’s remarks touching a visit to Vincennes Chapter, in its pioneer days, of Lorenzo Dow who presented an application and was chosen High Priest at the election of officers the following day, and says :

“ In view of the important place held by this singular and eloquent divine in church history, as well as in memory and tradition, and as a parallel to a record of Vincennes Chapter close at hand and one of a year's later date, it may be interesting to note a peculiar incident in his previous Masonic career. He was initiated in St. Alban's Lodge, No. 6, at Bristol, Rhode Island, on Christmas Day, Saturday, Dec. 25, 1824. On the succeeding morning and afternoon, he preached in the Methodist church, and when the proposition was made to him to receive the other two degrees on that day, he readily assented, saying there was nothing in the Masonic doctrine or practice that would forbid a God-loving creature from engaging in it on the Lord's day. Accordingly, after the afternoon service in the church the Lodge convened and he was passed to the degree of Fellow Craft, and raised to that of Master Mason in time for him to hold evening service in the church.

The same strength of character, firmness and fearlessness that characterized his ministrations of the gospel would necessarily mark his attachment to Masonry, and so, at one time, during the height of the anti-Masonic excitement, a crowd, well knowing where his course tended, following him on his way to the Lodge with unpleasant and offensive expressions concerning his connection with the Fraternity; to all of which no answer was made by him until he reached the door of the Masonic Hall, when, facing the crowd, he exclaimed: ‘ Whither I go, ye cannot come.’ ”

Under Canada he quotes liberally from the Grand Z's address, and says:

“ His review of the condition of the several districts is convincing proof that the supervision of the interests of the Grand Chapter of Canada is in competent hands, and while willing to commend the faithful workmen, he did not hesitate to condemn in plain terms a wanton neglect of duty.”

“ The Grand High Priest believes in the representative system as a means of strengthening and cementing the bonds that mutually join all Masonic organizations. He brands the Past Master's degree as ‘ illegitimate and repellant to the instincts of men who reverence the teachings of Masonry.’ Strong words, Most Excellent.”

In the welcome accorded the fledgling Correspondent's maiden effort, we at once recognized a truly fraternal hand grasp:

“ Comp. Bennett, gives us an apologetic introduction to the paper, and by way of standing off criticism pleads ‘ first offence,’ which we can't approve. The work sent up is good, and our

Companion of Canada is advised to continue in the quarries and give us more specimens of his skill before filing an 'offensive plea.'"

Thomas Flint, Jr., San Juan, Grand High Priest ;
Thos. H. Caswell, San Francisco, Grand Secretary.

Colorado.

Chapters, 32 ; Members, 2,456.

Grand High Priest Alphonse A. Burnand, of Leadville, welcomed the Companions to the Twenty-first Annual Convocation, held at Denver, on the 19th September, 1895, in an address which established him an active and zealous officer.

Adverting to the small increase in membership, he trusts that quality may in some measure make up for numbers, and says :

" We are still troubled with the Companion who has only made use of the Chapter as a sort of platform, in order to step a little higher, and for this reason many of our Chapters suffer from the absence of such as should be among its chief supporters. Upon this question I do not want to deliberate, for it is under constant discussion, without hitting upon the proper remedy. The one I would recommend, is simply to make the convocations a little more attractive by cultivating the social side of Masonry ; or, let some of the Companions prepare a course of lectures on Masonic topics, to be delivered when there is a scarcity of candidates, and I think that the Chapters will be able to note quite an increase in the attendance."

He issued a dispensation for a Chapter at Lamar, which, however, did not convoke for three months subsequently. This, however, was not, as he states, the fault of the eleven Companions of Lamar, for they were actually "without a ritual for over two months." The G. H. P. assisted them at their opening and expressed hope for the Chapter's future, for he concludes :

"Notwithstanding these delays, I look for a good report from this Chapter, for in my judgment, few Chapters ever started life with a better or more competent lot of Companions."

The astounding celerity with which these Companions acquired competency should be an everlasting lesson to those who are so pronounced in condemnation of the printed ritual.

Among the half dozen or more dispensations issued by him were two to permit Chapters to publicly install their officers. He remarks thereon :

"Not favoring public installations, I hesitated, and was inclined to refuse them ; but, being assured that the public should consist only of members of the Lodge and the ladies, I granted the same."

The distinction we confess, was delicately drawn, but all the same to our thinking the G. H. P. should have maintained the courage of his conviction.

Very properly he refused dispensations to advance candidates without the required examination as to proficiency, but violated his own opinion again in granting one to ballot on candidates without waiting the required time. He departed from the rule in order to assist the Chapter, but even under such exceptional circumstances it will be admitted that the concession is a risky one.

In the matter of visitation the G. H. P. was fairly active although he intended to do more.

"If there wasn't any work, the evenings were generally profitably spent in going over parts of the ritual, overhauling Arks, deciphering inscriptions, and in fact in any way to assist the Companions to a more thorough understanding in the work of the several degrees ; and with the change of rituals I found a good deal of that sort of work to be done ; and for this reason, more than any other, I regret my inability to visit all the Chapters."

It is revealed in his recommendations that the Grand Chapter is without a complete code of laws, relying upon those of the Grand Lodge when not conflicting with the constitution. The G. H. P. says :

"I believe this Grand Chapter is large enough and important enough to have a distinctive set of laws."

The Jurisprudence Committee reported against a resolution to reduce the fees for conferring the degrees in subordinate Chapters from fifty dollars to thirty-five, and approved the recommendation for a compilation of laws and regulations.

An easy duty was that of the Committee on Grievances and Appeals, which reported that all was peace throughout the jurisdiction.

Comp. E. L. N. Foster reviews the proceedings of forty-six Grand Chapters, including Canada, and presents a most attractive and readable report.

Of our Grand Z's labours he says ;

"A very complete address by the Most Excellent grand Z. Companion J. Ross Robertson entertained the Companions after the opening. He made a fine record on inspection, having visited seventy-seven of the eighty-two Chapters."

He quotes freely from the address notably those portions referring to the status and antiquity of the Royal Arch degree, the legality of marks and the abolition of the Past Master. Of the correspondent he remarks :

"His report contains plenty of good reading matter, but rather fights shy of opinions. Colorado receives over two pages of notice. He endorses our views on Chapter funeral service and otherwise compliments, for which we take off our hat. He is entirely in accord with the sentiments expressed by Companion Seranus Bowen on female choirs for Masonic work. He doesn't believe in them one iota."

Which leads us to observe that Comp. Foster admits that on one subject at any rate we did not fight shy of an opinion. As he is in accord with the sentiment, it is earnestly hoped that he too will be equally bold, and assist to remove from Colorado its solitary blot, viz. Chapter ceremonials exhibited to the profane.

To Michigan's query on our abolition of the P. M. degree, "How is any American R. A. Mason going to visit Canadian Chapters hereafter when the R. A. degree is conferred?" he says :

“To us there does not appear to be any great difficulty, though there might be an obstacle in the way of admitting Canadian Royal Arch Masons to participate in our Chapters.”

This clearly demonstrates that even in Colorado there are Companions who hold to opinions that in the light of reason would vanish forever. Why should the creation of a modern ritual make debar a Royal Arch Mason from a Royal Arch Chapter? The reply will probably be, that the obligation was refashioned to accommodate the innovation. This then is a case in which injury is added to insult. It is difficult to believe that any enlightened Royal Arch Mason knowing the origin of, and history of the Past Master's degree, would for a moment justify it as a legitimate prerequisite to a degree that existed ages before the busy brain of an ingenious Bostonian conceived it. If our good Companion, realizing as he must, the true aspect of the situation, can close the portals of his Chapter against a regularly exalted Canadian Royal Arch Mason who does not happen to have ever been “seated in the Oriental chair,” then all we have to say is, that in this respect we also must entertain an opinion, which for obvious reasons however we will fight shy of expressing until we hear more of the possible “obstacle.”

George T. Cooper, Amethyst, Grand High Priest;
Ed. C. Parmalee, Denver, Grand Secretary.

Connecticut.

Chapters, 38 ; members, 5,433.

This old Grand Chapter nearing its century mark, met in its Ninety-seventh Annual Convocation at New Haven on May 13th, 1895.

M. E. Comp. Isaiah Baker, Jr., Grand High Priest, expressed the pleasure it gave him at being able to congratulate Grand Chapter on the flourishing condition of the subordinate Chapters and the evidences of unbroken harmony everywhere. To the memory of the late Grand Secretary Wheeler he paid a deservedly graceful tribute.

The method of visitation calls for some pertinent remarks.

"It is provided that the first four officers of the Grand Chapter shall visit, at least once each year, the several Chapters in their jurisdiction; to inspect the general condition of each and to give such lectures and instructions as will tend to a proper and uniform mode of working, etc.

It has been the custom of the Grand High Priest to assign certain Chapters to each of his associates, reserving an equal number for himself, and then await the call from the Chapters and make the official visitation, if possible. You will observe from this and from the reports of the other members of the Grand Council that the visitations during the past year have been few. This is owing entirely to the want of invitations.

Of the ten which I had reserved for myself, I have received invitations from the three only which I have visited. The condition of the others and their ability to confer the degrees I believe to be just as good as those I have seen. I can account for their silence in no other way than a growing neglect in this line.

Our visits may not have the effect designed by the General Regulations, but so long as those regulations stand they should be lived up to. I believe, however, that we have out-grown the system and that only by a change in the methods of visitations can uniformity and efficiency be expected and any possible advantage accrue to the Chapters."

Alluding to his attendance at General Grand Chapter, he fails not to give the Fort Riley trip a show.

With a view to the proper celebration of the centennial, the Committee of Ways and Means recommended that the per capita tax remain at thirty-five cents.

Comp. J. Stidham supplemented the Grand High Priest's references to the late Comp. J. K. Wheeler by a well timed address which "touched on other matters than his well merited Masonic honors." Treating of his talent as a poet, the speaker said he regarded him as the successor of the late Robt. Morris, the Masonic poet laureate, and quoted some of his poems which undoubtedly revealed as much the inward man as they did his rare gifts. Closing his address, the Companion feelingly said:

"Companion, peace be with thee, thy memory is fragrant, we will miss thee, but we trust to meet thee again, where in the full blaze of the light of God we shall know and be known.

On the memorial page dedicated to the memory of Companion Wheeler, I know of no better or more fitting words than

the lines of our brother's own writing, which he sent me some two years ago. They are entitled, 'To His Memory:'

Thy record is finished, and earth clouds are darkened,
Thy frail bark is moored on the shore of life's sea;
The voice from beyond thee, to which thou hast harkened,
Is that of the 'Master who calleth for thee.'

Thy record is finished; but 'yond the dark river
A light shineth brightly; thine opened eyes see,
And gladly is welcomed the shaft from its quiver,
That opens the door to Him calling for thee."

The report on Correspondence is again from the pen of Comp. Barlow, who for eighteen years has presided over this department and never fails to provide an intellectual treat for his readers. He reviews briefly Canada's proceedings for 1894, and expresses the fear that the abolition of the Past Master's degree "will lead to some confusion among its present and future members." Time will tell.

On the question of dependent membership he disagrees with Companion Henry Robertson and thinks lodge membership should be made imperative.

The decision of the G. H. P. of the District of Columbia that a candidate with an artificial limb, who could place it so as to conform to requirements, was eligible for the degrees, draws from him the following:

"According to the regulation of this jurisdiction, if the candidate is short a leg, a substitute (even a wooden one) can be used, but if a candidate is lacking to make up the team to confer the Royal Arch degree, no substitute can be taken; the two must wait until the full term is secured."

Under Kansas, referring to timely remarks of the G. H. P. on the loose method of conferring the M.E.M. degree, he says:

"We have seen it so mutilated that there was scarcely any lesson to it, even the candidate would be led to believe that the sign principal consisted in drawing a match across the right hip."

North Carolina's reviewer having discussed the demerits of the Past Master's degree, Companion Barlow makes deliverance thus:

"We agree with Companion Southgate that the degree has but little significance as a part of the Capitular system, but to require a dispensation to pass the chair simply to be eligible to receive the Royal Arch degree, as is practiced in Pennsylvania, is, in our opinion, no improvement. If anything is to be done, we think it would be better to eliminate it from the Capitular system, leaving only three degrees; we would have then only actual Past Masters who had acquired the honor by personal service."

James R. Post, Essex, Grand High Priest; James McCormick, Hartford, Grand Secretary.

1896.

The Ninety-eighth Convocation was held in the city of Hartford on May 12th, 1896, M. E, Comp. James R. Post, Grand High Priest.

The address was not lengthy, but it was strictly business. His visitations though few were evidently pleasurable. In one case the admirable work witnessed by the Grand High Priest had a healthful effect while the hospitality of the Companions in another was a little overpowering.

"They showed themselves at that time to be the most wide-awake body of men it has been my privilege to meet, at least they could keep awake the most. They did not consider my fatigue, or that I could not undergo as much comfort as themselves, and although their guest, I was forced to remind them of the flight of time by calling their attention to the clock."

Among the dispensations was one to a Chapter which was unable to work for want of light.

"A fire broke out in the gas works, and to avoid danger the gas was shut off about the time to open the Chapter and they were consequently unable to hold a meeting, therefore I gave them permission to elect their officers at the next regular convocation."

The old question of waiver of jurisdiction came up under a request of Pythagoras Chapter to be permitted to confer the degrees upon a brother who had been rejected by a Chapter in Pennsylvania in consequence of physical disqualification. The request was forwarded to the G. H. P. of Pennsylvania with certain particulars of the application. The following reply was received:

"The records of the M. E. Grand Secretary show that the Brother is a member of Lodge No. 397 of Penna, has been twice rejected (October 5th, 1882, and Nov. 7th, 1894.) by Catawissa R. A. Chapter No. 178, as 'physically disqualified.' No action can qualify him as an eligible for the degrees and membership in this Jurisdiction.

I regret to find these facts of record, and that under the circumstances I must decline to waive jurisdiction in his case."

The business before Grand Chapter was mainly routine, and the Grievances Committee again reported that there was nothing to engage their attention, everything being peaceful throughout the Craft.

Comp. Barlow's report on Correspondence is as interesting as ever, although—

"There are no new subjects presented, save that of elimination of the Past Master degree from the Capitular degree, such action has been taken by the Grand Chapter of Canada. As stated in other portions of the report, we believe it would be far better to omit a large portion of the burlesque ceremonies too often made use of in the conferring of this degree and strive rather to inculcate its useful lessons, than to attempt to strike it out, and thus bring confusion and disorder to the Royal Craft—in fact, let us have as little ritual tinkering as possible."

Canada's action in bringing "confusion and disorder to the Royal Craft" has apparently affected our worthy Companion for he has for the first time relegated his review of our proceedings to the tail end of his report under the head of "Foreign Grand Chapters." True he has furnished us with company in placing Quebec and England on a back seat also, and the punishment therefore is not so hard as if we had to undergo solitary confinement. Hitherto we have been permitted to join in the procession, and, sandwiched in between California and Colorado, have enjoyed that sweet sensation of close companionship which has always proved a comfort and a stay. Now we are sent to the bottom of the class, where, it is presumed, we must remain until repentance and submission restore us to favor.

His latent good nature is however exhibited in the two pages of space he devotes to Canada. He reproduces Comp. Henry Robertson's valedictory and says :

"We are sorry to find that veteran Companion Henry Robertson who has so long wielded the reportorial pen has felt it his duty to retire.

We also welcome his successor, who presents a most able report. He quotes our remarks what we feared would result in contention by his Grand Chapter planting Chapters in the Colony of Victoria. We are pleased to learn that these Chapters have united with the Grand Chapter of Victoria, and our fears were groundless."

We venture to predict that Companion Barlow's fears in connection with the abolition of the Past Master's degree will be equally groundless. He must ere this have realized that the antagonistic sentiment is not confined to this jurisdiction. Level heads and thinking minds have long ago arrived at the conviction that the degree is about as useful as a fifth wheel to a coach. With a useless limb to a healthy tree there is only one course to pursue. To prop it up or use concealment only makes the thing more unsightly. Even Comp. Barlow finds some difficulty in defending it. Under Delaware he says :

"He recommends the abolishing of the Past Grand Master degree from the Capitular system. While we are in full agreement with Brother Harrison as to its forming any addition to the system, as it is often conferred, it can and should be conferred in such a manner as to convey a useful lesson, and as it has been so long included in the Chapter, it would be likely to cause confusion and lack of uniformity at this time to eliminate it."

Will Comp. Barlow kindly "go for" that proof reader. Again under Mississippi :

"Masonic honors are usually given only as a reward of faithful labors, hence the value of them. As an illustration, we might cite the difference between an actual and Vertical Past Master. The former carries with it distinguished honors ; the latter is no more than any other preparatory degree, and has only empty honors."

We have witnessed the poor P. M. under many phases and in many positions, but Connecticut can fix him up in great shape. Wonder if this is the beginning of "the reformation?" To the Quebec reviewer who

expresses regret that the early American ritualists tacked on this degree to the Chapter system, he says:

“While it might well have been dispensed with in the first place, to abolish it now will make confusion and disorder among the Royal Craft, and we believe in a thorough reformation in the manner of conferring rather than its abolishment.”

England does not possess the degree and never would recognize it. Quebec has ventured an opinion against it. Henceforth, with Canada, they are “foreigners.”

Samuel S. Lamb, Waterbury, Grand High Priest ;
James McCormic, Hartford, Grand Secretary.

Delaware.

Chapters, 4 ; members, 595.

Twenty-eight years has this Grand Chapter existed, and though small numerically, it is characterized by an innate strength that easily points it out as an example. Last year the Grand High Priest took occasion to caution the membership against over zeal in adding to their number, and mindful of his advice, the Chapters show a marked increase of twelve, only averaging one per month and three per Chapter. The Annual Convocation was held in Wilmington on the 15th January, 1896, and, like its predecessors, was distinguished by unity, peace and concord.

The address of Grand High Priest, Eugene Massey, embraces seven pages of the proceedings, four of which are devoted to obituaries.

Among his recommendations is one advising a regulation to make membership in a Chapter dependent on that in the Blue Lodge, and that a Companion who dimits from a Blue Lodge and who does not affiliate for one year, forfeits his membership in the Chapter. This the Grand Chapter subsequently approved.

A recommendation that the work authorized by General Grand Chapter be adopted was also approved.

The financial statement showed receipts \$407 and expenditure \$395.87, including the cost of printing seven

hundred copies of the proceedings. Delaware is not laying up treasures on earth.

The genial chairman of Correspondence whose portrait faces the title page of the proceedings, was elected Grand High Priest, and no worthier choice could have been made. Congratulations are hereby extended to Comp. Harrison, not only because of his deserved elevation, but that Grand Chapter in its wisdom decided to retain him as their chief reporter.

He furnishes a report of over eighty pages, and gives to Canada two of them. He describes M. E. Comp. J. Ross Robertson's address a "masterly document" and establishes the Grand Z's reputation as a "zealous R. A. Mason." He freely quotes from it, comments most favorably, and greets the new reporter in truly fraternal fashion.

Under Georgia he says referring to the Past Master's degree :

"We still have the degree under the jurisdiction of the Chapters, but in our own judgment (we have expressed the same views before), it should be under the jurisdiction of the Grand Lodge, and to be conferred upon *Actual Past Masters only*, the ancient laws to the contrary notwithstanding."

And again to the Illinois reviewer:

"But we do think that it should be *only* conferred upon *actual masters* to fit them for the oriental chair. No others have any right to it. That's where we stand and we don't propose to move, although we recognize our inability to make any change."

New Hampshire's predilection for public installations brings the following, to which we ejaculate a hearty "amen."

"This kind of a dispensation we always dislike to see granted. What is to be gained by it? Why should we be anxious for the public to see our forms and ceremonies? Do we want to advertise ourselves? The very secrecy of our fraternity has been its best advertisement in all ages. For our own part we say, away with public installations and confine all Masonic work to the tiled precincts of the Lodge and Chapter."

Virginius V. Harrison, Wilmington, Grand High Priest; James H. Price, Wilmington, Grand Secretary.

District of Columbia.

Chapters, 10: Members, 2192.

Appropriate music in charge of a competent quartette, assisted the opening ceremonies of the Twenty-ninth Annual Convocation held at Washington on the 11th December, 1895, an opportune indication of the harmony which Grand High Priest F. L. Campbell in his address, assured the Companions characterized the Chapters during his regime.

He had several applications for dispensations to permit the ballot on candidates in a less time than the statutory calendar month, and he sensibly remarks

“My reflection upon consideration of this question has brought me to the belief that the same reasons do not lie for holding a Chapter petition for the same length of time that a petition for a Lodge is held before ballot, to wit, four weeks. This, in my judgment, is well in the case of a profane seeking to become a Mason. It is meet in such case that the candidate's character and record be closely scrutinized, giving ample time for a committee and a Lodge to make careful and exhaustive inquiry, so that none may be received into the Order save those who will make true and worthy Masons. But if, after such scrutiny, a man is found worthy and well qualified, and so is made a Master Mason, there does not seem the same reason for applying an equally stringent rule to his application to receive the Chapter degrees. The presumption is that one found worthy to become a Master Mason is also worthy to become a R. A. Mason, and if there should be anything in any individual case tending to rebut this presumption, it would be easy for the committee, or a member thereof, or for any member of the Chapter, to ask, in such case, that the petition lie over for further consideration. Thus a Chapter could protect itself in every case, and when all are satisfied, the candidate and the Chapter can proceed with a gain of two weeks in each case.”

The Grand High Priest was diligent in visitation and he gives due credit to his officers for zeal in the same direction. On several occasions he was invited to deliver the charge to the candidates and adds “This I always did without the book, a practice which I recommend to every High Priest.”

“It is the witness still of excellency
To put a strange face on his own perfection.”

The Committee on Grievances reported that there was nothing to disturb the serenity of the Capitular atmosphere.

A communication from the Grand Mark Lodge of New South Wales asking for recognition and exchange of Representatives, was considered by the Jurisprudence Committee, which recommended that the request be fraternally declined for the reason that:

“The Mark Master’s degree in this country being an inferior degree and subordinate to the Royal Arch, a body whose jurisdiction is limited to this subordinate degree cannot be placed in all respects upon an equality with a body having jurisdiction over degrees of a higher grade. The most this Grand Chapter can do is to recognize the Mark Masters made under the jurisdiction of the Grand Mark Lodge of New South Wales as regular Mark Master Masons, and they may be admitted into our Chapters when open on that degree.”

This was adopted by the Grand Chapter which also ratified the recommendation that no action be taken towards recognizing the Grand Chapter of Victoria until evidence is furnished of its legality.

Discussion and action on an amendment to the Constitution providing for cases where clergymen are exempted by private Chapters from fees or dues, was postponed until the next annual Convocation. Why brethren of the cloth should be relieved of fees and dues is, as our lamented friend Lord Dundreary was wont to remark, “one of those things no fellah can understand.”

Forty-three Grand Jurisdictions were reviewed by Comp. W. R. Singleton, the chairman of Correspondence, whose notice of Canada is most flattering. He gives freely of his space to Grand Z. J. Ross Robertson’s address, and in the reports of the District Superintendents sees “the growing prosperity generally in that jurisdiction.”

“Comp. Henry Robertson gives his ‘valedictory’ after twenty-seven years of service as chairman of the correspondence department of Grand Chapter.

Comp. Bennett reviews in 118 pages the proceedings of 42 Grand Chapters and of the General Grand Chapter of 1894.

Those of the District of Columbia occupy over two pages of extracts and fraternal comments, and we are pleased to notice that he concurs in some of this writer's 'lucubrations,' for which accept thanks, dear Companion. It is very pleasant to have your work accepted by competent 'overseers.'"

Referring to Comp. Harrison's remark that objection to the advancement of a candidate is equivalent to a black ball, and that all Masonic jurists are agreed upon that point, he says under Delaware :

"In this Comp. Harrison is laboring under a mistake. A very large number do not say this. The Grand Lodge of Massachusetts, many years since, settled this question : That if reason for the objections are assigned, they should be examined by a committee, and the Body upon a review should determine the question.

Many Grand Bodies, both Lodges and Chapters, have adopted the rule of the District of Columbia—that one degree given to a candidate makes him a Mason of that Body, and, therefore entitled to Masonic justice, and an objector to his advancement *must* give his reasons, and they are subject to a review by a committee, and should be voted on by the Body.

In the case of a profane elected to receive the degree it is different. We are under no obligation to him as yet, and therefore an objection is as an unfavorable ballot ; but once a Mason, then justice to him and equity to the Lodge demands the reasons why he cannot advance, and why the Lodge should be deprived of his services, and, perhaps good influences for Masonry. A bad man can keep out of Masonry many and many a good man by unworthy objections, and hence it is a good rule to *demand* his reasons as against a Mason."

To Oregon's decision that it is not necessary to open the Chapter to do work in either of the other degrees, he says :

"If a Chapter of R. A. Masons be once closed, then we do not understand how a lower degree than the R. A. can be opened. We have recently had occasion to illustrate this question by reference to a modern desk with a rolling cover. In the desk are all the drawers and other compartments. You must first open the cover before you can get at any one of the compartments.

In the R. A. Degree there is the record to be kept. There is no secretary in either of the other degrees. How, then can you officially keep a record of the work done ?"

Under Quebec, whose Grand Z. refers to the system of nomenclature of officers as being similar to that of England, the reviewer thus defends the "High Priest" of the American ritual.

"At one time recently the Grand Z. of Quebec was a visitor in this jurisdiction, and we carried him to visit one of our Chapters wherein at the time the R. A. degree was conferred, and we had the pleasure on that occasion of explaining to him why, in our system, the High Priest should be the first officer and the King his subordinate in the Chapter.

In the American system of Royal Arch Masonry the principal object is the recovery of what had been lost for many years, as exemplified in the third degree. In all the systems of the Religious Rites of the Orient there was exemplified in the rituals of initiation the Loss and Recovery. To the Postulant, in every ceremony, was finally communicated the 'Great Word.' with which he was to make himself known as an initiate.

The Archi Magus or Chief Priest was the only person charged with this, and he alone could communicate this word to the postulant. The Chief Priest in every religious system was the Head or Principal. In the Hebrew economy the Chief Priest was always superior to the King after a King was selected. Prior to the selection of Saul, who was the first King of the Children of Israel, there were Judges elected, who followed Joshua, the successor of Moses.

Now, under the Mosaiac dispensation, Aaron the brother of Moses was the first High Priest, and in matters of religion was principal, Moses being the leader in the state in all other matters.

We can now readily see why in Royal Arch Masonry the High Priest is the proper person to represent the High Priest of ancient times, and more especially to represent the High Priest of the Jews, viz :

To the High Priest alone was committed the true pronunciation of the name of Deity. Tradition of the Rabbins informs us that this word was to be pronounced aloud by the High Priest, within the *Sanctum Sanctorum* of the Tabernacle, when it was in the "Wilderness of the Wandering," during the thirty-nine years after its completion. This custom was annually observed on the great Day of Atonement, when the High Priest went into that chamber to make atonement for himself and family and for all the people. At the same time the silver trumpets were sounded, and the people shouted to prevent the NAME being heard by the people.

When the last temple or Temple of Herod was destroyed by Titus in the year A. D. 70, and the office of High Priest ceased, the NAME, as pronounced properly, it has been asserted, was lost, and scholars now assert that it is *ineffable*. But Royal Arch Masonry professes to have the word and its explanation,

and the High Priest and not the King is the proper *custodian*, with ancient authority to communicate the pronouncement to the postulants entitled to secure it from him.

Is it at all likely that at the reconstruction of the Temple of Zerubbabel, upon the return of the Babylonish captivity, such events transpired as represented in the ritual, which is by no means at all probable, and in our opinion, entirely fabulous and allegorical. Would the High Priest have surrendered his prerogatives in the communication of a word which belonged entirely to him and his office? When we consider that every one of our Masonic degrees is modern, invented for a purpose by scholars to demonstrate figuratively great fundamental truths in morality and religion—for we think we can prove conclusively that these degrees, from the Entered Apprentice upward to the final degree, were originally designed to teach religious truths, and when we make a proper application of their signs and symbols, and also a proper interpretation of the allegories contained within them—we can see throughout, from the First Degree to the completion of each system, a regular progression in the knowledge of the great I AM.

The tiled Chapter chamber is the only place to prove all this, so we can say no more, except that each intelligent Royal Arch Mason should be able to work this out for himself. To our mind, from a careful study of these degrees for lo these many years, we do not hesitate to pronounce the Masonic system, when well understood, the grandest scheme ever invented by man for the upbuilding of a true manhood, and second only to the Christian religion, to which it is an adjunct and helpmeet, and we do not wonder that some Masons have declared that it was good enough religion for them, which is a great mistake and a fatal one, unless they should interpret, as we do, the entire system of Masonry from the E. A. to R. A. really to convey the idea of the 'fall' and subsequent 'redemption' of mankind, and this would carry us into a discussion of theology, and is not suitable in this connection—'Behold how great a matter a little fire kindleth.' "

The use of substitutes he sensibly defends in noticing under Washington the issue of dispensations to that end:

"Why a dispensation was requisite we suppose is because of the statute. Now that, in our opinion, is unnecessary. If substitutes are allowed at all, then the Chapters should be the judges when they should be used. When we were a young Mason, some fifty odd years ago, it was a common thing almost everywhere to use substitutes, and no harm ever followed the practice; and why not permit any Chapter to do so now? Frequently it occurs that it works a great hardship, not only on the candidates but obstructs the work of Masonry itself by a strict observance of the Ritual. Masonry was never designed

to obstruct its workings by such severe constructions. It is only among the hypercritical observers of our work that such things become necessary."

Theodore G. DeMoll, Washington, Grand High Priest ; Lewis G. Stephens, Washington, Grand Secretary.

Florida.

Chapters, 19 ; members, 675.

On the 12th and 13th May, 1896, the Grand Chapter of Florida celebrated its semi-centennial at the Fiftieth Annual Convocation held at Jacksonville. The address of Grand High Priest J. H. Stephens indicated a peaceful and prosperous year. He exhorts his Companions to good deeds and says :

"Let us remember that a Masonic Lodge is a temple of peace, where harmony and brotherly love should ever prevail, and where lessons of love and charity should be learned, so that in passing over the tassellated pavement of this fleeting existence let us not be unmindful of the merciful end of our creation."

To the fraternal dead he gives more than a modicum of thoughtful attention :

"Death with the all devouring scythe of time has entered the temples of our jurisdiction and removed some of our loved and useful Companions."

And then follows a list of the "Companions who have been called from labor to refreshment."

Companion William H. Jewell, Deputy Grand High Priest, delivered the semi-centennial address at the afternoon session of the first day's proceedings, from which the following extracts are culled :

"I am proud, as a Mason, to know that we must go back still further, to the year 1830, to find when the Grand Lodge of Freemasons was organized in this State. And that Freemasonry in Florida still antedates that period by many years, for the first Lodge of Freemasons was instituted at St. Augustine as long ago as 1768 under a warrant from the Grand Lodge of Scotland." * * * *

“Where and when the Royal Arch degree had its origin no one seems as yet quite able to say, positively. Our historians usually give the date of its origin about the middle of the last century, 1740, in England. But we are told that there is good reason to believe that the degree of Mark Master, at least antedates this period by more than two hundred years. I have heard expert Masons tell of the Masonic evidences they had seen on the foundation stones of Solomon’s temple at Jerusalem, and among these of the ‘marks’ of the workmen then upon the massive foundation stones which have lain there for nearly three thousand years.

When the Past Master’s degree originated or when it was adopted into the Royal Arch system is not clear. The records so far known which tell us of virtual or honorary past masters instead of actual past masters, being eligible for the Royal Arch degree, carry us back one hundred and fifty years.

The origin of the M. E. M. degree is equally obscure. It was known prior to 1797 as the Super Excellent degree. Of the Royal Arch degree the actual records do not carry us back of 1740. But there is strong probability that the history of this degree goes back considerably anterior to this date. The four degrees of M. M., P. M., M. E. M., and R. A. M. were worked in Royal Arch ‘Lodges’ until about 1768, when ‘Chapter,’ instead of ‘Lodge,’ came into use.

The term ‘Companion’ came to be used instead of ‘Brother’ about ten years after, that is, 1778.

The history of Capitular Masonry in the United States begins some time before the present century. We read of Royal Arch Lodges several years before the revolution.”

The Deputy Grand High Priest’s data is a shade faulty. The attempt to claim so recent an antiquity for the P. M. Degree is not worthy of the Florida historian. Had he gone back still farther he might have discovered a “virtual” hiding behind those “marked” foundation stones.

The Grand Secretary’s report showed that the receipts of Grand Chapter from all sources amounted to \$716.70. The “pay roll” sums to Grand Officers and representatives of seventeen Chapters attending the Convocation for mileage and per diem, totalled \$285, to which add Grand Secretary’s salary and office, \$350, and printing and other necessary expenses easily make a big hole in what is left. So that after fifty years’ existence Grand Chapter cannot be said to be affluent. Were Canada to adopt the “pay roll” it is feared that her benevolent grants of \$500 or so annually and the

little nest egg of close on to \$20,000 would slowly, but very surely fade, like a beautiful dream.

It is noticed that in the list of Grand Representatives the late R. E. Comp. Moffat's name still appears for Canada, although Florida had long since appointed his successor in the person of R. E. Comp. A. B. Munson, of London.

Among the appointed committees was one on Foreign Correspondence a report from which, pay roll permitting, the Craft generally will hail with pleasure.

William H. Jewell, Orlando, Grand High Priest;
William A. McLean, Jacksonville, Grand Secretary.

Georgia.

Chapters, 95; members, 3266.

M. E. Comp. James W. Taylor again presided at the Seventy-third Annual Convocation held in the city of Macon, April 24th, 1896. His address, as before, is a carefully prepared and most interesting document.

"Not alone in our own State, but other jurisdictions have prospered equally as well, showing the fact that enlightenment develops the beauties of the Order, and demonstrates that Masonry needs no tribute but intelligent recognition. We do not need to honor it by laudation, but we do need to honor ourselves by receiving the mighty profound truths it reveals in every step taken by its adherents. Masonry recognized in its vital force and in its just and upright teachings would regulate all conflicting forces and correct the many evils that are cursing our land and country, and destroying the usefulness of our fellow men. Why then, should I not congratulate you, my Companions, on the very liberal patronage and recognition given the fraternity the past Masonic year?"

"Intelligence and harmony prevails to such an extent in Georgia among the Craft that the duty of rendering decisions are very light." Those cases in which he was called upon do not happen frequently:

"1st. A Chapter elects an applicant for the degrees and confers the Mark Master, after which it forfeits its charter, the candidate removes to the jurisdiction of another Chapter where he still resides, and has resided twenty years, at the expiration

of which time the old Chapter revives, and the candidate wishes the remaining degrees, which Chapter holds jurisdiction ?

Held : That when the old Chapter surrendered its charter it forfeited all jurisdiction, and the Chapter in whose jurisdiction he lived during the suspension of the old Chapter, and where he now lives, is authorized to confer the degrees.

2nd. An applicant for the degrees was rejected by a Chapter, after which he removes to another State, and in conformity to the laws of said State he applies and is elected, the Chapter electing him confers the Mark Master's degree, when the candidate returns to Georgia, the Chapter electing him requests a Georgia Chapter, other than the one rejecting him, to confer the remaining degrees. Can this be done ?

Held : That when the applicant removes from Georgia he surrendered all rights to citizenship of said State, and a Chapter in the State to which he removed could request any Chapter in our jurisdiction to confer the remaining degrees, and if the Chapter originally rejecting him objects to him receiving the degrees, it should prefer charges and forward them to the Chapter that marked him.

3rd. Can a Royal Arch Mason, with charges preferred against him in his Lodge, visit his Chapter in Convocation while said charges are pending ?

Held : We have no law in our jurisdiction to prevent him, he being considered innocent under the law until the charges are sustained, and a verdict rendered."

Dispensations to form new Chapters at Cornelia and Roopville were issued ; and West Point Chapter, dormant for several years, was reinstated. He refused several applications for new Chapters, "deeming the exigencies of the case not sufficient."

The Grand High Priest is pronounced in his conviction that the Correspondence department is one of value. His remarks on the subject are noteworthy :

"I regret very much, however, to note a tendency of some Grand Chapters to curtail the influence or diminish the knowledge and pleasure accruing from intelligent fraternal correspondence. These faithful compositors of the acts and doings of sister jurisdictions labor hard, and are doing much towards promoting the great principles of fraternal love among the Craft generally and bringing to light any trespass upon the ancient land mark. They unearth very many valuable and much prized treasures of great worth to the Craft and of immense value to the seeker after truth, and should be encouraged.

The prosperity of the cause is greatly dependent upon intelligent interchange of thought upon Masonic subjects by these faithful 'knights of the quill,' and it is sad to think that the world of Masonry should ever be deprived of the valuable Masonic literature emanating from the sound brain, dictated by the pure hearts and sent forth to the world by the pen of this corps of authors, and would insist, Companions, to never let your report on Foreign Correspondence be obliterated from the pages of your Annual Proceedings. We tried it once, and almost wrecked the Grand Chapter of Georgia, and when the committee was revived the logical, comprehensive report of Excellent Companion Love and profound thoughts of Companion Ramsay, set in type, has had more to do with the rehabilitation of the Grand Chapter of Georgia than anything else. Sustain your committee and hold up their hands, and the investment will result in untold profits received in Masonic knowledge and fraternal fellowship."

The Masonic press finds in him an able advocate, and he devotes not a little of his attention to urging upon his Companions the necessity of giving it their cordial support. "Encourage it, fill your lodge libraries with it, thereby disseminating knowledge and truth and the reward will be a mind well filled with Masonic lore and a heart overflowing with brotherly love and kindness."

After nine years zealous services the Grand High Priest puts aside the cares of office.

"Experience has taught me that it requires intelligence, energy and perseverance to accomplish great ends; but Companions, I have done the very best I could, and in returning to you the emblem of office with which you invested me nine years ago, I do it with a hope that no act of mine has tarnished it, but return it pure and unsullied as when intrusted to my custody, and pledge my every effort in support of the great cause for which I have labored three times three years, and as an humble private member in your ranks, ever hold myself ready to obey the orders of my Chief and respond to the call of my Companions."

For the three daughters of Comp. W. Abram Love who presented to Grand Chapter an oil portrait of their distinguished father, three suitably engraved massive silver bowls had been procured by the committee entrusted with the duty and the same had been duly forwarded. One of the ladies makes acknowledgement on behalf of herself and sisters:

" ATLANTA, Ga., April 24th, 1894.

Mr. Julius L. Brown and Committee :

GENTLEMEN,—Shakespeare, you know, says: ' Thanks to men of noble minds, is honorable meed'; and so, in trying to present to you and through you to the Grand Chapter of Georgia, my own and my sisters' thanks for the tributes paid to us for our father's sake at the last meeting of your Grand Body, I feel that words are inadequate, and I can only beg that, in accepting our sincere thanks for the elegant gifts you have sent us, and which we value much, especially for the inscriptions they bear, you will again recall the words of the great master of Stratford, and remember, however feeble our efforts to express our appreciation, that

' Never anything can come amiss,

When simpleness and duty tender it.'

Please, then, believe me, when I say for my sisters, Mrs. A. L. Hall and Mrs. M. L. Harvey, and for myself, gentlemen, that we, the daughters of Dr. William Abram Love, do sincerely thank you, one and all.

Very truly yours,

BUNNIE LOVE."

Comp. J. W. Akin was authorized to compile " A Chapter Manual and Capitular Law Digest," and a special committee was at the same time appointed to examine and report on the MSS. when prepared.

The Finance Committee recommended that to meet current expenses the Grand Secretary be authorized " to borrow one thousand dollars at once." Later in the day that officer announced that the American National Bank had come to his relief and a resolution of thanks was tendered to that institution for its " liberality and kindness in accommodating this Grand Chapter."

Turning to the report of the Finance Committee it is found that the Grand Treasurer's balance on hand at last report was \$1402.40, received since from Grand Secretary, \$4577.10, total \$5879.50.

" He has paid out, all sustained by proper vouchers, \$5979.50."

Hence the necessity for the loan. Details of the expenditure are not furnished, nor is the " pay roll" published, but that it exists is manifest in a recommendation of the committee " that the mileage shall be five cents per mile each way instead of ten as it is now."

The "pay roll" may go to make up a goodly attendance at Grand Chapter annually, but it is an expensive inducement nevertheless, and that it is an inducement to somebody at any rate, is disclosed in a resolution submitted to, and adopted by, Grand Chapter viz: "That it shall not be lawful for the Grand Treasurer to pay to any member his mileage or per diem at any Convocation until the close of the same."

Undeterred, however, by a depleted treasury, the generous Companions adopted the following :

"Resolved, That a committee of twelve, of which the Grand High Priest shall be chairman, be appointed by this Grand Chapter to confer with the Grand Lodge of Georgia in regard to establishing a Masonic Home."

Comp. W. S. Ramsay is again the reviewer for Georgia, and his report, as usual, is attractive and interesting. Canada for 1894 receives a page of notice, and he says "interest and enthusiasm are everywhere manifest."

On the question of dependent membership, he says under Iowa :

"It would be the basest ingratitude for the Chapter to refuse to uphold the institution that constitutes the very basis of the whole Masonic fabric. If symbolic Masonry should withdraw her sympathy and withhold her support, Capitular Masonry would fall to pieces of its own weight, and could not possibly obtain material with which to rebuild."

Charles Wessolowsky, Albany, Grand High Priest ;
Andrew M. Wolihin, Macon, Grand Secretary.

1896.

The printed proceedings of this year are embellished with the excellent portraits of two Most Excellent Companions, Past Grand High Priest James W. Taylor, who for the previous nine years ruled beneficently over the Royal Craft, and the no less zealous and venerable Grand Secretary, Andrew M. Wolihin. Long may both be spared to the Craft in Georgia.

The Grand High Priest, M. E. Comp. Wessolowsky, opened the proceedings of the Seventy-fourth Annual Convocation at Macon on the 29th April, 1896, with a lengthy and scholarly address.

Among his decisions are the following :

“Question. A brother having been marked in Chapter ‘A,’ he then makes application for higher degree and is black-balled, is there required a ballot for each degree? His own Chapter being defunct, can he now apply in Chapter ‘B’ for his degrees at every meeting, it being considered an application for affiliation?”

Held : That no one can affiliate except a Royal Arch Mason, and application for degrees is not affiliating, and, when once rejected must wait twelve months before applying again.

Question. Can a Companion, being not affiliated with his Symbolic Lodge, hold an office in the Chapter?

Answer. Emphatically no. A man who, from indifference or neglect, and from no fault of others, forgets his obligation and stops contributing his just dues for the maintenance of his mother Lodge, ought not to be entitled to any honor or exalted station in any other branch of Masonry, which is the super-structure of the foundation which he neglects. In fact, it would be a wise law that an unaffiliated Mason in the Blue Lodge stand unaffiliated in all other branches.

Question. Can a dimit be granted to a Companion in a Lodge?

Answer. While all business can be transacted in a Lodge except balloting, which must be done in a Chapter proper, the granting of a dimit would necessarily come under that head, yet if, at the Lodge meeting, the regular Secretary being present, and he reports that there are no charges and that the Companion is clear on the books, the dimit may be granted.”

The Committee on Jurisprudence disagreed with the answer to the last question and reported :

“That a Companion can be dimitted only by the Chapter in the Royal Arch degree to which he belongs, under the same regulations as now obtain in the Blue Lodge for the dimitting of a Master Mason.”

The G. H. P. issued dispensations for three new Chapters at Pelham, Moultrie and Adairsville and started them all going himself. Zebulon and Bainbridge Chapters were resuscitated and Orlando Chapter constituted. He reports a net gain of nearly 600. A good

record truly. Referring to the loan which it was found necessary to raise in the preceding year, he has this to say :

“ In conformity with a resolution, passed at our last Convocation, our Grand Secretary made arrangements to borrow one thousand dollars from the American National Bank, with interest at eight per cent. per annum. Together with the Grand Secretary I signed a note for that amount, which now is paid. That amount was needed to pay the officers and members their mileage and per diem at the last session, and unless we reduce our expenses and see that they are no larger than our receipts, the Grand Chapter will again find itself a borrower, with no prospects of liquidating the debt. The business part of the Grand Chapter must be transacted in a business-like manner, and it is clear to the mind of any reasonable man that in every business the expenditure must be no more than the income, in fact, ought to be less, in order to meet some exigencies, else, it is only a question of time before bankruptcy and ruin will be the fate of that business. This, Companions, is plain talk, yet I deem it my duty that you may not be deceived. It is for you to determine whether you will continue to borrow or devise some means (and they are easily found) by which we can carry on the business of the Grand Chapter with ease and comfort and independence. I hope you will give this matter your serious consideration, and for the benefit of the Grand Chapter, for its honor and good name, devise some means within your power to lessen the expenditures, and thereby advance and elevate the name and fame of the Grand Chapter of Georgia.”

Why not sacrifice the “ pay roll ” for a few years?

He pays a merited tribute to the labors of Comp. Ramsay, author of the Foreign Correspondence report, and his eloquence moved Grand Chapter later on to double that hard working Companion's stipend.

The ladies of Good Samaritan Council undertook to care for the Companions, and their hospitable invitation was accepted.

“ A recess of twenty minutes was taken, during which time all the Companions repaired to the banquet room and partook bountifully of the finest spread ever laid before the Grand Chapter.”

Inducement enough for a full attendance even with the “ pay roll ” abolished.

A committee of five was appointed to prepare a revision of the constitution, and the amendment reducing the mileage allowance from ten to five cents per mile each way was adopted.

The receipts this year were \$4667.50. Expenditure \$4630.93; so that the Grand Treasurer was the happy possessor of a balance on hand, but too small to meet requirements, and the Finance Committee recommended:

“That the Grand High Priest and Grand Secretary be authorized to borrow as much money as is necessary for the payment of the expenses of the present year.”

Everything goes but the “pay roll.”

Canada's proceedings for 1895 had apparently not reached Comp. Ramsay in time for his report, which is singular, as they were all mailed by October of that year, but while we regret its absence, the Companion's work is none the less welcome.

To the Delaware reviewer who expresses a desire to “look up” the order of High Priesthood, as it is missing in his jurisdiction, he says:

“We hope he will, so that the High Priests of that jurisdiction may enjoy the privileges of that beautiful and important degree in Capitular Masonry.”

Without wishing to be too inquisitive, we would venture to ask Comp. Ramsay if he will kindly inform us when that order was made a degree in Capitular Masonry. Do not hesitate, Companion, we are numbered with the anointed.

Under England and Wales he says:

“The Benevolent Fund now amounts to \$78,000. Annuities are paid to nine indigent Masons, and that five widows of Masons are supported, besides the education of thirteen orphan children, and large contributions for temporary relief. Such an example of Masonic charity speaks louder than pages of eloquent addresses on the tenets of our profession. All honor to them.”

Charles Wessolowsky, Albany, Grand High Priest;
Andrew M. Wolihin, Macon, Grand Secretary.

Illinois.

Chapters, 186; Members, 16,414.

Forty-six mile-stones has this Grand Chapter now passed, and it is one of the strongest, as it is one of the most influential on the continent. The Annual Convocation held in the Masonic Temple, Chicago, on the 24th and 25 October, 1895, was as interesting and eventful as usual.

M. E. Comp. W. L. Milligan, Grand High Priest, recited his year's record in a comparatively brief, though practical address. He made ten visitations from all of which he reports good work, and fraternal hospitality characterized most.

He appointed three Grand Lecturers and detailed them to visit seven Chapters, their expenses being duly paid.

It occurs to him that the officers in charge of districts should correspond with the weak Chapters in their respective districts, and recommends "that it be made the duty of each Grand Officer to inspect such Chapters as are in a state of innocuous desuetude." Rather odd that officers in charge of districts should have to be reminded thus of their plain duty.

Among his decisions is the following :

"The Veils or Tabernacle, should occupy space within the tyled precincts of the Chapter hall proper, where such important and suggestive ceremonies as 'Passing the Veils' will not only be under the inspecting eye of the High Priest, but where they can be witnessed by the whole Convocation."

Surely no Chapter would ever think of placing the veils in the back kitchen, or even upon the roof, although that airy elevation is made especially attractive to the Chicago Companions in summer time.

Invitations to visit were extended to Grand Chapter from the Board of Trade, the Masonic Orphans' Home, and York Chapter. The members of the latter provided a banquet and of course were not lightly passed over.

To the Orphans' Home the sum of one thousand dollars was appropriated, and the Grand High Priest's

compensation, in view of his arduous labors, was increased from four hundred to six hundred dollars.

"E. Comp. John C. Smith spoke of his late voyage around the world and his very pleasant reception in 'Chapter Zoroaster' in Bombay, India. He read an invitation from the Most Excellent Principals and Companions of said Chapter, inviting the 'Grand High Priest, officers and members of the Grand Royal Arch Chapter of the State of Illinois' to attend a banquet of the Chapter. The invitation was received and the Grand Secretary directed to acknowledge the same."

The Zoroasters of Bombay were real kind, and it will be a disappointment if nobody is there to respond for "Illinoy." As a sample of gratitude, however, it does not show to advantage. Iowa was overlooked. What has Illinois ever done for the pious Hindoo?

The Grand Council of High Priests was quite a feature during this Convocation and the proceedings are incorporated with those of the Grand Chapter. Some sixty or more eligibles were duly anointed, and at the close of the ceremony the exalted ones to the number of one hundred and fifty dined together at the Sherman House, where an address dealing with the history of the Order was delivered by that zealous Mason, Gen. J. C. Smith whose travels and writings have made his name familiar far beyond the boundaries of Illinois. We would like to reproduce the address in extenso, especially as the Order has recently found a foothold in this jurisdiction, but having regard to the limit allotted to us, must content ourselves with a few interesting extracts:

"The degree is of American origin, and as now known is the work of Companion Thomas Smith Webb and others associated with him. While it is undoubtedly true that the degree is American, it is also true that it was early conferred in Canada, has found its way across the Atlantic and is now worked in Great Britain, as I have evidence in the ritual in my possession, which I obtained during my recent visit to England.

The earliest reference yet found to this Masonic Order of High Priesthood is in a roll book belonging to the present Council of High Priests of Massachusetts, founded November 6, 1826, and in which eight High Priests are named who received the degree that year."

Later on, in commenting upon W. Hacker's references to the early history of the degree, he upsets the theory that Webb was the creator of the degree :

" With our worthy Companion's conclusion we do not materially differ, except in crediting the origin of this degree to Companion Thomas Smith Webb and his committee in the General Grand Chapter of 1799. The law recognizing the degree officially was undoubtedly the committee's and the monitorial lessons Webb's, but the degree itself had been conferred upon High Priests for years before (ten), as proven by the Massachusetts records.

Thus it is with all our Masonic degrees, one is never sure as to when they originated, or by whom first conferred, and a writer is never safe in asserting any date as a fact in this age of Masonic research, when older and well authenticated documents are often being brought to light."

" We shall therefore content ourselves with the statement that we do not know where the degree originated, or to whom we are indebted for this beautiful and appropriate Order of High Priesthood. To Companion Thomas Smith Webb and his committee we may be indebted for its present form. To the Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons duly assembled in 1799 we owe its official sanction. But to some Companion as yet unknown we are indebted for its origin prior to 1789."

A most interesting relation of a visit to the Holy Land and personal experiences of the places mentioned in the ritual of the degree, chained the attention of his hearers.

" The Order of High Priesthood was founded when ' Melchizedek, King of Salem, brought forth bread and wine ' ; because ' *he was* the priest of the Most High God ' , and blessed and anointed Abraham, saying, ' Blessed be Abraham of the Most High God, possessor of heaven and earth. ' And that being about the year 1900 B.C., should be recorded as the year of the Blessing, and the Order of High Priesthood date therefrom. But as we Free and Accepted Masons only lay claim to this high title from the date of its adoption as a Masonic official title, we should not place its acceptance at a later date than 1789, as that is clearly proven in the Massachusetts roll book."

The following extract will possess more than a passing interest for the Companions of Canada :

" It only remains for me to say that among the records now in existence we find in addition to the Massachusetts roll book of 1789, and the official adoption of the degree by the Grand

Chapter of the United States in 1799, that Companion Thomas Vincent, of Vincennes, Indiana, received the degree in Toronto, Canada, in 1818."

Comp. J. M. Pearson conducts us over forty-five jurisdictions in his entertaining review of their proceedings and would have included others but that he had to close early in order to visit Boston. Canada for 1894 receives generous attention in five pages, much of which is devoted to the Victorian matter now happily settled. The resolution to exclude the Past Master he deems "evidence of haste" and says:

"We are sorry for this result, because it makes another point of difference between us and our Canadian Companions, with whom we are, and must be, closer bound than with any other foreign jurisdiction."

That it would make a "point of difference" was fully believed and understood, but that it would ever affect the close bond between us did not enter into the calculations even in the guise of a suspicion.

Referring to the Delaware reporter who expressed a profound belief in the entire sovereignty and wisdom of the Grand High Priest selected by the Companions, he says:

"Well, we too believe in the 'powers and prerogatives' of the Grand High Priest. The trouble comes when some degenerate son of a wise King Solomon undertakes to make his 'little finger thicker than his father's loins.' Then we feel like joining Jeroboam the son of Nebat, forgetting that thereby we get into bad company."

Under Virginia he veils a compliment in the following:

"The reports of the District Deputy Grand Lecturers show that the work of supervision is fairly well conducted, but are manifestly as favorable as circumstances would allow and are different in tone from those of the Superintendents of the Grand Chapter in Canada."

George M. Moulton, Chicago, Grand High Priest;
Gil. W. Barnard, Chicago, Grand Secretary.

Indiana.

Chapters, 91 ; Members, 6,479.

The year 1895 marked the half century of this Grand Chapter, and the eventful epoch was duly and fittingly celebrated, a most interesting historical paper being prepared for the Annual Convocation held at Indianapolis, October 23 and 24, by Past Grand High Priest Thomas B. Long. In addition the printed proceedings contain a gallery of portraits of those Companions who have presided over Grand Chapter since its inception to the present, a feature that contributes a special and peculiar value to the admirable compilation.

Only a brief fortnight after his elevation to the highest office in the gift of his Companions, M. E. Comp. J. A. Manning, Grand High Priest, of Michigan City, was in the previous October stricken with apoplexy and died. The Deputy Grand High Priest, R. E. Comp. Henry W. Mordhurst, assumed the duties, and in addressing Grand Chapter referred touchingly to the sudden calling away of his chief.

He approved the appointment of Comp. Thomas R. Marshall of Columbia City as Canada's representative near the Grand Chapter of Indiana.

The Grand Secretary's report showed total receipts \$2844.42, disbursements \$4678.40. The latter included "pay roll" \$1221.42 and "profit and loss" \$1751.27 ; Balance with Grand Treasurer \$3603. The failure of a bank accounts for the heavy item in the disbursements.

The charter of one Chapter was arrested, two were given three months to pay up and one was declared forfeit.

M. E. Comp. Thomas B. Long, who, by the way, was most appropriately appointed historian of the Grand Chapter, submits a review of the transactions of every Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons in the world, fifty-four in all. The record is opportune at so important an epoch. As Correspondence chairman Comp. Long is an entire host and the captain thereof. He maintains the interest throughout.

Canada for 1894 receives over three pages of notice. The reduction of the fee for initiation and the suggestion of a reduction in the cost of registration and certificate draws from him the remark, "and this is the boomerang."

He condenses the Victorian situation very clearly into a few lines, that is, so far as the points of difference between the English system and that practiced by the Companions who held charters from Canada are concerned, and says:

"These facts and the additional one that the Mark degree finds no place in the new Grand Chapter's curriculum—being here under the control of the Grand Mark Lodge of England and Wales, and the Supreme Grand Chapter of Scotland—seem to cut up the Canadian Companions as completely as would the combined infliction of all the penalties we know of."

He reproduces Comp. Henry Robertson's remarks on the exclusive jurisdiction question, and quotes in support the following approval clause from the report of the Jurisprudence Committee of General Grand Chapter:

"The practice of a brother leaving the place of his residence and obtaining exaltation abroad is one which deserves the strongest disfavor, and the Royal Arch Mason, thus made, ought (unless satisfactory reasons to the contrary appear) be denied the privilege of visitation."

Under Maryland, he upholds the physical perfection stand by a thoughtful analysis of the Ancient Charges, and adds:

"This language can not have any other construction, within the rules of composition or of law, except that he must be without 'maim or defect in his body,' (first), to qualify him to be made an Entered Apprentice, and that he must be without 'maim or defect in his body'; (second), to qualify him to be made a Fellow-Craft 'in due time,' after he shall have remained an Entered Apprentice for such a period as may be lawfully required.

Therefore, if physical perfection—which liberally construed, means a natural ability to comply with the ceremonies and requirements of the ritual—reaches, under the Ancient Charges, from the degree of Entered Apprentice to that of Fellow-Craft, which required no additional ceremonies to qualify its possessor

to perform the functions of Master Mason ; and if the ' Master's part ' in those early times belonged to the degree of Fellow-Craft, as many writers strenuously contend ; and if, as will not be disputed, the secrets of the Royal Arch were declared to be a part of the degree of Master Mason by the highest Masonic powers on earth, through the Articles of Union in 1813 ; who can dare to say that physical qualification is not a landmark, unchangeable and eternal ? Away with the false doctrine that a landmark as fundamental as this shall be ignored, abrogated, destroyed by an innovation before which all others, except that of disbelief in God, would become insignificant, if not harmless—the innovation of man presuming to create a man, with machinery taking the place of the members of the human body as created by the Almighty ! ”

Noting a discussion under Minnesota touching the rehabilitation on payment of amount owing of a member suspended for non-payment of dues, he says :

“ A mere payment of dues for which a member may have been suspended will not restore him in either the Chapter or Council in Indiana, but must be followed by a majority vote. ”

Approving a Vermont ruling to the effect that a Companion could not be excused from voting upon the petition of an applicant for the degrees, he pertinently says :

“ Should a petitioner be rejected, it must not be in the power of any one member to say whether he had or had not contributed to that result. Nor should any other person be able to say this of him. Neither should he be permitted to pursue a course that would enable others to know that he had not cast a rejecting ballot by the exercise of the sense of sight. The reason is just as strong that he should not be allowed to do this as it is that he can not be permitted to disclose what the character of his ballot was when he has voted. No member present can be permitted in any way to shield himself from the responsibility that may follow the rejection of a candidate. All must stand upon an equal footing, and all must bear, with equal support, the burden, whatever it may be, of such a responsibility. ”

His conclusion embraces a caution which we gladly reproduce, not because we object to “ reform ” applied in the right direction, but because we, too, believe in landmarks, and entertain a deep-rooted antipathy to innovation disguised in ancient garb and foisted upon a confiding fraternity as something to be revered and adhered to.

“Keep close to the landmarks!—for there are landmarks, notwithstanding some recent attempts to ridicule them; landmarks so palpable and so plain that ‘he who runs may read’ them. Do not destroy or attempt to remove those that belong to, and prove, the very antiquity of Freemasonry! It is a trite but true maxim—a maxim of the science of ethics as well as mechanics—that ‘a chain is no stronger than its weakest link.’ In the chain of landmarks that encircles and holds together our own peculiar society, do not weaken any of its links either by the corroding element of indifference, or with the innocent-looking but sharply cutting file of false sentiment.

There is no means by which the true Mason can be so well prepared to guard at every entrance the dangerous approach of the self-regarded Masonic reformer as in the reading of the annual Reports on Correspondence printed by every department of Masonry, and which are transmitted each year to every Lodge, Chapter, Council and Commandery in America, and to every Grand Body in the world.

And these facts should be a sufficient inducement, were there no others, to every Grand Body to publish these Reports, and for every zealous Mason to read them.”

Henry W. Mordhurst, Fort Wayne, Grand High Priest; William H. Smythe, Indianapolis, Grand Secretary.

Indian Territory.

Chapters, 20; Members, 682.

The Sixth Annual Convocation held at Atoka, Choctaw Nation, August 15, 1895, was presided over by M. E. Comp. Selwyn Douglas, Grand High Priest, eleven Chapters being represented.

He issued four dispensations for new Chapters. He also issued a dispensation to Cyrus Chapter, Oklahoma City, to ballot on an application for affiliation without the customary reference to a committee of investigation, and adds:

“And it affords me great pleasure to add that afterwards, on the same evening, Companion Binns was duly and constitutionally elected Excellent High Priest of Cyrus Chapter, No. 7, and that he makes a first-rate presiding officer.”

The specific reason for the dispensation is not given, unless the plea that the Chapter needed the

services of the Companion, can be so construed. If so it must have been a poorly equipped Chapter. The action, however, was endorsed by Grand Chapter, as was also the following decision :

“ In a case where a candidate has been duly elected to receive the Chapter degrees in a subordinate Chapter, and thereafter, before any degree is conferred, an objection is made by one of the members to the conferring of any of said degrees, that such objection is equivalent to the casting of a black ball at the election, and the candidate cannot receive the degrees.”

The G. H. P. concludes a brief address with the assurance that Capitular Masonry is thriving in the two Territories, and the hope that the two may become one “politically as they are Masonically.”

The Grand Secretary's report successfully recommended the remission of dues from Chapters U. D.

“ The Grand Chapter is in easy financial condition. Dues from U. D. Chapters are not actually needed by the Grand Chapter. They are greatly needed by the young Chapters. Might it not be well to excuse these new Chapters from paying dues? ”

The young Grand Chapters can give pointers occasionally to some of those with the experience of half a century.

The receipts were \$758, disbursements \$263, and the Treasurer's balance \$1,137. This, together with the report that there was nothing before the Grievances Committee, would indicate that matters were prospering.

Grand Secretary Murrow presented the report on Correspondence, in which Canada for 1894 is kindly mentioned.

Noting that Iowa does not require affiliation in the Blue Lodge, he says, “ a Chapter of such members would be like a ship without an anchor, or a house without a foundation.”

He believes that all petitioners to organize a new Chapter should be required to take their demits from the old before signing the petition for the new. How, then, if the petition for the new Chapter is rejected?

In concluding he ventured to prophecy :

“Capitular Masonry has a healthy growth in the North and West. In the South there seems to be an indifference and inertia in the Chapter work.

I am satisfied and predict that, with God’s blessing, the reports to the Grand Lodge and Grand Chapter in 1896 will be the best we have had for years.”

Zachary T. Walrond, Muskogee, Grand High Priest; J. S. Murrow, Atoka, Grand Secretary.

1896.

If the last issue of the proceedings was deserving of eulogy, and we note that the Grand Secretary was careful to commend the “home job,” then the most recent product of the Muskogee press must be accepted as a decided symptom of a healthy and prosperous growth. It is a most creditable issue, and furnishes another testimony to the desire of the younger jurisdictions to emulate, if not outshine, their older sisters in the matter of typographical vanity. Neatly executed portraits of Past Grand High Priests Murrow and Doyle are included, and gives birth to the hope that their successors will not be omitted in future issues.

The Seventh Annual Convocation met at Muskogee on the 13th of August, 1896, M. E. Comp. Walrond, Grand High Priest, in the chair. His address was brief and covered most of his official acts.

He granted three dispensations for new Chapters, and a petition for a fourth reached him too late to take action thereon. Half a dozen other places in the two Territories are in correspondence with the executive. Regret is expressed that Texas declines to take shelter under the wing of the General Grand Chapter, and the amalgamation of the Scottish Grand Chapters is held up as a worthy example to those who claim to revel in independence.

Among his decisions is the following :

“A Chapter not chartered, but at work under Dispensation, cannot ballot upon the petition of a candidate for the degrees at

a called or special Convocation. The ballot can be taken only at a stated Convocation. It should enact a by-law providing for stated Convocations."

How can a Chapter U. D. enact a by-law? We suppose, however, it is all right, for the wise Committee on Jurisprudence endorsed the G. H. P.

The following enthusiastic paragraph is from the Grand Secretary's report :

"The supply of Charters being exhausted, substitutes had to be given to three of the Chapters to which Charters were granted at the last Grand Convocation. I had a new supply printed and we now have a sufficient number to furnish half the Lodges in both Territories. Come on, brethren, with your petitions and you shall each have a nice Charter."

Let us hope that none of these Chapters will have a nice new obituary before they attain the age of discretion.

The Grand Secretary is also Chairman of the Committee on Work and Returns, and comments on the latter as received from each Chapter. Here is a specimen :

"RUSH SPRINGS, No. 16.—The most perfect returns received. Penmanship just like copper-plate. All full names. A thing of beauty and accuracy. All hail, Companion Thomas J. Brooks! In work also Rush Springs stands at the head—fifty-six degrees."

A Past Grand High Priest's jewel was voted to M. E. Comp. Walrond. The Secretary has added the following to the resolution :

"Since the close of the Grand Chapter, the Grand Secretary has received the following letter from Companion Walrond. The self-denial and modesty of Companion Walrond is only equal to his merit, and the Grand Secretary is in a quandary which to obey—the Grand Chapter or the request of Past Grand High Priest Walrond.

MUSKOGEE, Ind. Ter., August 17, A. I. E. 2426.

Dr. J. S. Murrow, Grand Secretary, Atoka, Ind. Ter. :

DEAR COMPANION,—Although I requested you verbally not to procure for me the Past Grand High Priest's jewel voted to

me by Grand Chapter, yet I deem it best to repeat this request in writing. Whenever the Grand Chapter will undertake to assist the Grand Lodge in the erection and maintenance of a 'Masonic Home,' then I shall ask that the cost, or rather price, of this jewel shall be appropriated for this eleemosynary purpose.

Appreciating all of your courtesies to me while in office,

I remain, your constant Companion,

Z. T. WALROND."

The balance in the exchequer after all payments is \$1,452, but it will be observed that the Grand Chapter accounts are not yet burdened with a "pay roll."

M. E. Comp. Dr. R. W. Hill undertakes most successfully the role of reviewer, and to his excellent report on Correspondence adds a dissertation on "The Name of God," a paper of twelve pages, evincing much thought and research.

Of the Past Master's degree he says under Arkansas:

"Personally we have no sympathy with the desire to change the work of the Past Master, for it certainly, when properly handled, is made the vehicle for teaching what is not given elsewhere. The trouble is there is too little attention given to the explanatory lecture, where the lessons of the degree are set forth. Often the lecture is omitted altogether, and the candidate retires bewildered and full of questions as to the meaning of the 'ceremonies' through which he has passed. The General Grand Chapter has decreed that the work shall be abridged as much as possible, but the result of merely 'communicating the essentials' is not satisfactory.

"When properly handled, it is made the vehicle for teaching what is not given elsewhere." This is choice, but vague. The Iowa man who saw in it a "vehicle" for teaching the Companions how to "stump," was more direct. We venture to say that of the thousand and one degrees that are turned out periodically to satisfy the demand of the mystery-loving American "joiner," not one but has a select line of moral of its own. In fact, neither the degree pedler nor his prey would have any use for it without the "teaching" attachment. Companion Hill must furnish argument more substantial than the above to satisfy

the growing appetite for something upon which to rest this blot on the Caputular system.

Canada for 1895 receives pleasant recognition.

"M. E. Comp, John Ross Robertson, the Grand Z., made an admirable showing of efficient work during the year. In visitation he made a commendable record, as over seventy of the eighty-seven Chapters were personally visited, and fifteen schools of instruction held by him. This was not accomplished without sacrifice of time and means, but he has the consciousness of good work and true work during his incumbency in the office. His address is worth reading, for while he does not believe in literary fireworks, which have place on holidays and at flag-raising, he says, yet the address is a model of its kind."

Nor does he fail to observe a change in the Correspondence corner:

"The Report on Correspondence is now in new hands. After a score of years Companion Henry Robertson left the work for another pen, and this year Companion George J. Bennett presents his review of forty-two Grand Chapters as his specimen of work from the quarries. It will pass the test of the square, and Companion Bennett will certainly receive his reward of commendation. We have pleasant recollections of Toronto and the beautiful hall in which the Grand Chapter met, and believe the Companions over the line are as zealous Craftsmen as any who are to be found, so it is an honor to be selected for the responsible position of Correspondent to follow Companion Robertson, who for twenty-seven years held his own with the best reviewers."

We confess surprise at reading the following paragraphs. A surprise that is all the greater at finding them both under the same review and almost in juxtaposition. Comment is unnecessary:

"It is time that steps were taken to suppress the growing tendency to take the world into our confidence. The pages of the daily papers have their columns devoted to the work of secret societies, and among other organizations Masonry comes in for a share of the reporter's attention and is put upon the same plane as the fraternal insurance societies. The work is described, who occupy the stations, what special work is done by visitors, the impression made upon the candidates, etc. All this is out of place. Let it be stopped."

* * * * *

"Public installations have been sanctioned so long that it is

too late to call their legitimacy into question. If on no other ground than immemorial usage they would have claim, but when they are made to accomplish good they have a reason for their continuance, and we expect to see them grow in frequency rather than become forbidden. Of course there are times when these things are abused."

To Comp. Perkins, of Vermont, who believes that candidates for advancement should show proficiency, he pertinently observes :

"But after all is said on this subject of proficiency, it strikes us that no system of lectures for memorizing will prove very successful. It will be a hard matter to enforce legislation on the subject, for while it is desirable to have bright Chapter Masons, they become bright not through committing a few questions and answers, but by absorbing the principles of the several degrees, by attendance and participation in the work."

There are many good things we would like to cull from this very instructive report, but must forbear and close with the earnest hope that we shall again hear from Companion Hill.

Napoleon Bonaparte Maxey, Muskogee, Grand High Priest; Joseph S. Murrow, Atoka, Grand Secretary.

Iowa.

Chapters 117; Members 7,186.

Ninety-three Chapters were represented at the Forty-second Annual Convocation held in Dubuque, on the 17th October, 1895. In the previous year it had been decided to convene on the 26th September, but as the trotting association had arranged to hold its races during that week the Grand High Priest reasoned that something had to give way. The horse racing folks apparently had the floor, or rather the town, so the G. H. P. announced a change of time as above.

M. E. Comp. Amos Alberson, whose portrait graces the opening of this neatly printed volume of proceedings, congratulates Grand Chapter in a plain sensible address on the prosperity of the jurisdiction, particularly

in the Cryptic Branch, which he says exhibits an increased interest.

While "the insatiate archer still continues his ceaseless round" and has been busy in other jurisdictions, Iowa has happily been spared.

He received numerous communications from Companions at different points who desired to organize new Chapters, but in "only two cases" did he believe it to be "for the good of the order" to accede to the request.

To fourteen requests to ballot out of time the G. H. P. acceded—further evidence of the easy elasticity displayed in the jurisdiction. He, however, expresses pride in being able to announce "that the day is past when the Capitular degrees are used only as a stepping stone for so called higher degrees."

"'Tis a common proof
That lowliness is young ambition's ladder
Whereto the climber upward turns his face;
But when he once attains the upmost round,
He then unto the ladder turns his back,
Looks in the clouds, scorning the base degrees
By which he did ascend."

The Committee on Chartered Chapters reported a net gain in membership of 194. At the close of 1893 there were unpaid dues in the subordinate Chapters amounting to over \$16,000. This at the end of 1894 had been reduced to less than \$10,000.

A request to co-operate with the Grand Lodge and Grand Commandery in the dispensing of Masonic charity, was referred to a committee which recommended that no action be taken in the matter as the receipts of this Grand Body are insufficient to meet such additional expenditures.

Nevertheless the treasurer of the Grand Chapter Charity Fund can exhibit a comfortable balance to meet needy cases.

Past Grand High Priest Ercanbrack, the caustic author of the report on Correspondence, embodied his appreciation of the "ample, appropriate and fraternal"

hospitality of the Dubuque Companions in a characteristic resolution.

At the very outset of his report he "lays for" the Representative, and having gleefully clubbed the Alabama Iowan, canters merrily along. During his brief halt at Canada he has time to observe

"Among the number of distinguished Masons present we are proud to find Iowa's honored Ambassador, Right Excellent Companion George J. Bennett, who is a prosperous citizen of the very enterprising city of Toronto."

Of astounding perspicacity is Comp. Ercanbrack. He knows a good thing when he sees it. Its what he doesn't see however that trips him up at inconvenient periods. As a prophet he is at fault occasionally. A large batch of re-appointed Representatives will attest that fact. As a seer he is also likely to suffer in reputation. We admit the citizenship of a very enterprising city. The prosperity, alas, is only in that rosy imagination of Iowa's generous reviewer, to which poetic license lends a marvellous expansion.

His opinion of Canada is embraced in the following:

"The Most Excellent J. E. Harding, Q. C., Grand Z, had an interesting story to relate, notwithstanding the twelve Grand Superintendents made exhaustive reports concerning their respective districts. No less than eleven 'Chapters of Instruction' had been held, which proved a Royal Arch tonic of marvelous power. In the 'annual statement' we find no less than six Chapters under dispensation. The 'returns of Subordinate Chapters' is a table pleasing to behold. It shows signs of vigor. In all parts of the jurisdiction 'admissions' appear. Six hundred and seventy-three Canadians for the first time entered the sacred tabernacle, and exhibited such specimens of skill as to obtain recognition and promotion. This phenomenal growth caused an increase of five hundred and eighty, and swelled the aggregate to the formidable number of four thousand six hundred and thirty-four. This enlargement of membership is attended by a financial expansion of \$949.63. Our Canadian Companions prove their thrift and wisdom in this matchless form:

Bonds and Indentures.....	\$17,000 00
Cash	4,708 67
Total.....	<hr/> \$21,708 67

What other Grand Chapter on earth can show fraternal assets at \$4.50 per capita?

We cannot too highly commend the thorough work of the Grand Superintendents of Canada. The statements of their official doings make up the bulk of this volume, and a careful reading of them is almost as satisfactory as a personal visit to each Subordinate Chapter. We also observe that the business of the Grand Chapter was transacted after the manner of Americans, rather than the British. That is, all participate, instead of relegating everything to a 'committee of general purposes.'

We greatly admire the handiwork of the Most Excellent Henry Robertson in his labors as a reviewer. By handiwork we mean the ease and frequency with which he drops his pencil and clutches the scissors. We do not wonder at it. The various Capitular proceedings so abound in elegant composition that the impulse to let each zealous worker speak for himself is well nigh irresistible.

The Committee approves, with emphasis, the superior style of this beautiful red volume from Canada. It bears the impress:

'HAMILTON. ONTARIO.
A. MCPHERSON, PRINTER.'

But we have read it with as much ease as though it had been published at Grand Rapids, Michigan. Our grateful eye exclaims to our Canadian Companion, who has struck 'resumption of larger type in our books':

'I thank thee, who hast taught
My frail mortality to know itself.'

The report throughout is of the same material. He evinces a most laudable desire to avoid rocks, and although judiciously culling the opinions of others on subjects in dispute, he adroitly, and perhaps wisely, skips gaily to the side and with a merry jest passes on to something more in harmony with his pleasant mood. Companion Hedges, of Montana, he apostrophises thus:

"Montana blizzards have had a marvelous effect upon the mental capacity and working machinery of that Iowa emigrant, Cornelius Hedges. His Correspondence Report of 1894 is a vast cyclone of metaphysical sky-rockets. The scintillations of his genius fill the whole air with flashes of light that dazzle, bewilder and dumbfound! All the heaven-wide display of brilliancy emanates from his own brain. What a volcano that Hedges' head must be! Although we do not feel at liberty to reproduce the whole ninety pages of the large-typed and well-leaded report, yet we will scissor that part of the Iowa chapter that affords the richest aroma of Montana Hedges."

The Oregon reviewer who wants a plain admission as to Iowa's "Hindoo Theology," he disposes of with evident satisfaction.

"Companion Hodson, do you not know that that obligation is not violated until it happens that some one has unlawfully *obtained* the secrets of Masonry through somebody's unworthiness? Now this 'Hindoo Theology' is past finding out. It is too puzzling a jumble of characters to be called a Hindoo anything. It is rather a hoodoo everything! This little red book referred to has existed in Iowa for thirty years, as harmless as a love-letter written in heathen Chinese."

Under Pennsylvania, which is inclined to pat on the back any who encourage the elimination of the Past Master's degree, he says:

"The writer professes an abiding affection for the Past Master's degree. It may not be 'in line' or 'in its proper place,' but it is a *useful* degree. The writer has been High Priest of his Chapter for twenty-three consecutive years, and has conferred the Past Master's degree on several scores of persons. He has utilized the degree as a school of oratory. By means of it he has turned more than a half-hundred members from quiet gentlemen into orators and stumpers. During the two hours in which the candidate was trying to fulfill his freshly-taken obligation, to rule and govern impartially and Masonically, the Companions were debating some projected enterprise for the good of Masonry in general, and our Chapter in particular. Thus, while a degree was nominally being conferred upon one, an important school of polemic culture was being conducted for all in attendance. We can truly say that for the business men of Anamosa, Iowa, who are Royal Arch Masons the Past Master's degree has supplied 'a long felt want.' It has cured sad cases of diffidence, and placed many a man distrustful of his powers strongly on his feet to vindicate any cause he may choose to espouse. Let us employ the Past Master's degree to cultivate that 'Courage, which on all hands is considered as an essential of high character.' 'Few persons have courage enough to appear as good as they really are.' By a proper use of the Past Master's degree many a bashful Companion may cause it to be said of him:

'There's a brave fellow! There's a man of pluck!
A man who's not afraid to say his say,
Though a whole town's against him.'

And to a reporter who expresses himself strongly on Iowa's determined stand against the use of substitutes, he says:

“But there is no use talking. If there is any one thing that the Grand Chapter of Iowa is bound to stick to, it is the traditional ‘three.’ If the requisite three candidates are not forthcoming with sufficient frequency to preserve the life and interest of Chapter work, then let the Chapter subside. So say our Iowa capitular solons. (The writer has been most unmercifully whipped in two distinct attempts to procure the permission for even *one* substitute). ”

The untterrified Iowa Sojourner employs the language of the hero in Macbeth :

‘ When shall we three meet again,
In thunder, lightning, or in rain? ’ ”

LeRoy T. Weld, Nevada, Grand High Priest ;
Alfred Wingate, Des Moines, Grand Secretary.

1896.

The fine open countenance of LeRoy T. Weld Iowa’s Grand High Priest for this term, smiles out a welcome as we open the volume. He presided at the Forty-third Annual Convocation, held at Marshalltown, on the 15th October, when were present, in addition to the Grand Officers, the representatives of ninety-five of the one hundred and seventeen chartered Chapters and twenty-one ambassadors from other Grand Chapters, among whom Canada’s representative failed to appear.

The Grand High Priest announced that all was peace within his territory. He issued dispensations for three new Chapters, one of which is to bear his respected cognomen, and constituted three. Iowa is growing.

He very properly called attention to the inconvenience arising from the regulation which required that Grand Chapters only can approve of by-laws adopted by a subordinate Chapter, and suggested that the power be given to the Grand High Priest. The suggestion was promptly acted upon though why it had not been done years before is a mystery as shady as an Iowan Hindoo.

Under “Masonic Work” he has this to say :

“I have been taught, somewhere in Masonry, that true Masonic work consists of search after truth. Is this what a Companion means when he says : ‘I shall not attend the

meeting to-night. There will be no *work*, and I do not care to go?' No. He means that the ritual—the store-house of grand and beautiful thoughts—will not be rehearsed to a candidate. Is it not true, Companions, that the best time to study these sublime truths and this beautiful symbolism is when there are no degrees to confer? We certainly do not get all there is in Masonry when we receive the several degrees. There is too much crowded into the short space of one or two hours for us to digest or assimilate it without further study and thought. The young men of Athens who gathered about Socrates were changed into his likeness, not by change of outward garb, nor by other material agency, but by the thoughts which he sent surging through their souls; and, though he was condemned to drink the fatal hemlock that this public transformation might be arrested, the seeds of truth which he had sown in the hearts of his followers still bear fruit to bless mankind. So should the heart of the neophyte be taught to conceive the beauties of Masonry by hearing them discussed, explained, and commented upon by those who have given them thought and study. Such a course, pursued occasionally, would surely do much more toward pointing the way to that pure, noble, moral life which Freemasonry surely contemplates, than all the routine work of the lodge-room."

M. E. Comp. Ercanbrack submitted his customary ornate "expression of thanksgiving" for the hospitality shown by the local Companions which included many and kindly attentions, a superb banquet and a quartette of sweet warblers.

"The power of beauty I remember yet
Which once inflamed my soul, and still inspires my wit."

That a sparkling report on Correspondence should follow was only to be expected. Comp. Ercanbrack finds it irksome to be serious and is careful to avoid the ponderous matter to which many of his confreres give so much time and thought.

Referring to the year's record he says :

"It was a fairly prosperous year. Peace reigned, and a healthy measure of Masonic activity prevailed throughout the royal realm. The general policy of the Royal Craft is so well settled that very little discussion of any kind is anywhere heard. Our borders are being extended, and it now appears that of all existing institutions Capitular Masonry bids fair to survive the longest.

In most of the annual addresses mention is made of finan-

cial stringency. This fact is given as a reason why our numbers do not multiply faster. At the present writing the signs of the times are not bright. Misfortunes are befalling our Companions on every side. One after another is being overwhelmed by financial disaster. In some instances the consequences are dire. But amidst it all let us fail not to cherish the chief attribute of the true Royal Arch Mason—

‘Whether we name thee Charity or Love,
Chief grace below, and all in all above.’”

The Alabama reviewer expresses keen anxiety as to the nature of Iowa’s “Hindoo Theology” and asks Comp. Ercanbrack for light. He gets it thus :

“‘Hindoo Theology’ is a small volume of mysterious characters which none but a man wise in his own conceit can interpret. Many erudite scholars are puzzled at its contents. But with certain appropriate suggestions and directions the riddles of the volume are revealed, and a charming flow of ritualistic wisdom is evolved. But to the uninitiated world—

‘Within that awful volume lies
The mystery of mysteries.’”

But to be the custodian of such is to be weighted with a fearful responsibility and probable risk. Let him ponder the fate of the holy man, whose fate is here related :

“Where the gentle cassawary
Roamed the plains of Timbuctoo,
There he ate the missionary—
Bible, prayer and hymn book too.”

Canada receives an average share of his condescending notice, for he does notice now and then.

“All hail fraternal neighbor on the north! Canada is not a part of the American Union, but how often the thought arises in the minds of millions that it were so. Though these two adjacent and lovely countries are separated by a line political, yet many inhabitants of both are firmly united by bonds fraternal.

We have great cause for pride that we are so closely allied to the Grand Chapter of Canada. The affairs of that jurisdiction are exceedingly well administered. The work of Chapter inspection is very thorough, as shown by the complete reports of the dozen District Superintendents.

On the 16th day of July, 1895, there assembled at Toronto nearly all of the active Royal Arch workers of the Canadian jurisdiction, and with a decorum becoming gentlemen of high degree gave close attention to the masterly oration of the Grand Z, J. Ross Robertson."

On the Past Master's degree, of which he is an advocate, he quotes the Grand Z. in full and adds:

"Thus the work of long-threatened elimination has commenced. We have no further comment to make at present than to say we regret that our Canadian Companions have taken that step."

Here is how he greets the reporter :

"The Grand Jurisdiction of Iowa is to be congratulated upon being represented near the Grand Chapter of Canada by no less a personage than Right Excellent Companion George J. Bennett, of Toronto, who is an accomplished reporter on Correspondence. His remarks concerning the Grand Body which he so well represents are so kindly and so pointed that we gladly quote them."

He then reproduces what we say of him to the extent of a page or so, winding up with our pleasantries on his treatment of the Representatives.

"We solemnly assure Companion Bennett that Iowa's Grand Representatives will receive no more whacks at our hands. They are all accomplished gentlemen, zealous Royal Arch Masons, and if they do not happen to be present at Grand Convocation, it is because their valuable services are indispensable to public or private welfare. And as our honored Representatives are going to and fro benefitting mankind, we pray—

'The benediction of these covering heavens
Fall on their heads like dew.'

Alas for that solemn assurance. The "ruling passion is strong in death" although the hand is gloved. The poor Representative catches it just the same.

Max Beehler, Manchester, Grand High Priest ;
Alf. Wingate, Des Moines, Grand Secretary.

Kansas.

Chapters 81 ; Members 5,057.

The proceedings of the Annual Convocation, held at Wichita, on February 17, 1896, are recorded in an exceedingly neat volume which this year reached us intact. Hitherto we have had occasion to report the omission of the appendix to which the reviewer attaches a no small share of importance.

In a retrospective mood, M. E. Comp. J. H. Spencer, Grand High Priest, opens his address :

“Thirty years is a long space of time, and the changes are many. There is not present to-day one member who assisted, originally, in organizing this Grand Chapter, and few, if any, connected with its early history and trials.”

He referred feelingly to the misfortune which had overtaken a well known Companion, Past Grand High Priest, Owen A. Bassett, who at the time lay in the hospital at Topeka, where he had recently suffered amputation of the left leg. At his suggestion a telegram of sympathy was forwarded.

He reported an unbroken peace throughout the jurisdiction. Two new Chapters were constituted.

A sum of ten dollars per month was appropriated for the widow of the late Grand Chaplain, Rev. Alfred Barnes.

It was decided to present to the outgoing G. H. P. annually the apron worn by him during his term of office.

A very complete and interesting report on Correspondence is furnished by Grand Secretary DeWitt, who devotes six pages to Canada, quoting freely Grand Z. Robertson's address, which he said displays “a remarkable diligence.” He deprecates the “cheapening of the degrees,” but otherwise agrees with contentions of the Grand Z., most of which he characterizes as “sound doctrine.”

He reproduces M. E. Comp. Henry Robertson's valedictory “in appreciation of his services,” and gives two pages of quotations from the report of his successor,

a most complimentary greeting to a tyro and for which we beg to thank him.

In his review of Colorado he gives a personal impression of the Past Master's degree.

"While we have no use for the Past Master's degree, as it is usually *worked*, for we believe it is a clear case of *imposing on the Craft*, we do believe that it affords an opportunity for impressing the candidate with the dignity of his office, and the decorum and good order that should ever prevail in our meetings."

And supports this view by quoting the Missouri reporter.

"He suggests that it is the fault of the workmen, and not of the degree that the Past Master is sometimes made a farce of. We will add that it is the fault of the Grand High Priest, and the Grand Chapter, if the 'workmen' continue, not only to 'make a farce of the degree,' but make fools of the candidate and asses of themselves."

Comp. De Witt is an enthusiastic supporter of the order of High Priesthood, which he says is not excelled by any of the rites or ceremonies of Masonry. It is with regret that he quotes the North Carolina Companion's utterance on the subject:

"We are not encumbered with this weighty and honorable Order in this jurisdiction. Our fathers were never convinced of its importance, and we have uniformly persisted in eschewing it. Somehow our Grand High Priests and High Priests manage to get along without it, and it may now be difficult for us to get into the 'succession.'"

The contention in some jurisdictions that the actual presence of the charter is necessary to legalize the proceedings, draws from him the following under Oregon:

"Suppose our Companion from the 'Web-feet' should come to visit our Lodge, and should examine our charter, how would he know that the name, M. S. Adams, which purports to be that of the Grand Master, was genuine? What would he know of the other signatures, or the parties who are supposed to have signed them? As we have stated elsewhere, we think it is no more necessary that the charter should be *visibly* or *actually* present than that one should carry the deed of his house in his hand to prove his right to live in it."

Samuel E. Busser, Emporia, Grand High Priest;
Jacob De Witt, Salina, Grand Secretary.

Kentucky.

Chapters 81 ; Members 2,826.

Seventy-three Grand officers and Chapter representatives attended the Annual Convocation of this old Grand Chapter at Louisville, on October 15, 1895, for which they collectively received the sum of \$1,082.80. At the close of Grand Chapter the cash in hand was \$1,813.04, and it further possessed fourteen shares in the Farmer's Bank of Kentucky, valued at \$1,400.

The Grand High Priest, M. E. Comp. James D. Lewis, opened a brief address by appropriate reference to the death of Comp. W. B. Wylie, Grand Principal Sojourner.

“ When Comp. Wylie died Masonry lost one of its staunchest friends. Not only as a Mason was he respected, but as a man. His name is spoken with reverence by the Mason and the profane, and his character held up to the children as one worthy of imitation. For charity he was noted, never having been known to turn away the needy and distressed.”

He granted a dispensation for the organization of a Chapter at Middlesboro, and on eight occasions permitted Chapters to ballot on petitions within the limited time.

He decided that the election of officers in a Chapter where there was not a quorum of its own members, was illegal.

The improved condition of the finances is a subject for congratulation. Of the Chapters, some are sleeping, a few exhibit signs of waking and others are active. To his successor he bequeaths the pleasant duty of arousing “ all to life and energy.”

Of the Masonic Home to which he was appointed as superintendent he says

“ I never realized its needs until then. The responsibility I took upon myself when I became Superintendent has grown every day. To control as it were the lives and characters of two hundred and forty children, who know no father's care, is indeed a great task. I ask, and believe I shall receive your

support in discharging my duty. Our numbers are steadily on the increase, and with numbers comes expense. We, as Royal Arch Masons, must help to bear the burden."

How so laudable a desire is to be gratified with that annual "pay roll" to be attended to, will be found a difficult problem. The remarks of the Grand High Priest were referred to a special committee, the composition of which is not recorded, and that is the last of the Home, so far as the proceedings are concerned. It was not included in the list of appropriations recommended to the Finance Committee.

An amendment to the constitution providing that Past Grand High Priests be not entitled to draw mileage and per diem after they had passed the chair three years, received its quietus.

There was nothing for the Grievances Committee and they reported that peace abounded. The "roll call" at the close of Grand Chapter showed that the representatives of thirty Chapters had engagements elsewhere.

Right welcome is Comp. Staton's extended review of the Grand Chapters. It is just what we expected of him and the hope is expressed that he will be permitted to continue in the good work. Although Canada was late in reaching his hands, he deals most generally with us. Of M. E. Comp. J. Ross Robertson's address he says:

"The Grand Z. told the Royal Craft of that jurisdiction of his official acts in an excellent paper of sixteen full pages length. It would be hard to find an address of more solid worth than is the one before us. It seems that no interest of the Royal Craft of this jurisdiction has been neglected."

Quoting that part in which the Grand Z states that the Royal Arch is "the recognized terminus of all that is legitimate in Masonry that has been handed down by our fathers in the Craft," he remarks:

"How about the Cryptic degrees? As the work of the Capitular degrees throw substantial light on the Symbolic degrees, so does the Cryptic degrees throw light on the Capitular system and give us still greater light on the Symbolic

system. We haven't time to enlarge on this interesting theme, but simply throw out the suggestion that it is hard to divorce these three systems, viz: Symbolic, Capitular and Cryptic."

Which does not affect the statement in the least. The year of the Deposit was five hundred years or thereabouts anterior to that of the Discovery. The important event of the latter period being the outcome and result of the former, must logically be regarded as the end or terminus. The Cryptic degrees are undoubtedly necessary to the Royal Arch, being explanatory in their design. Comp. Staton may rest assured that a Past Grand Master of the Cryptic Rite and one who has embodied his desire for its advancement in Canada in a volume narrating its history and progress in that country, is hardly to be suspected of ignoring its claims or thoughtlessly placing it to one side.

Of our action with regard to the Past Master's degree he has this to say :

"Some of the Chapters on the borders of the United States desire to place themselves in a condition to visit Chapters in the States, asked permission to confer the Past Master's degree, but the Grand Z. refused the same, for the reason that the Canadian Capitular system does not tolerate the Past Master's degree, nor does he approve the incorporation of that degree into the Capitular system at all. Nevertheless our distinguished Companion, or any other Canadian Chapter Mason, cannot visit any Chapter under the jurisdiction of the General Grand Chapter, without a knowledge of that degree."

Fully aware of that lamentable alternative Canada nevertheless "took the bull by the horns" and led in a reform to which not a few of the dependencies of the General Grand devoutly respond "amen," and wish that they could "go and do likewise." There are a few who cling to the tradition that the degree, apart from the mandate of the General Grand, is a necessity, but even our worthy Companion must admit that the expressions of discontent are not confined to one or two jurisdictions. We have already given at length the reasons for Canada's elimination of the so called degree and are content to observe the signs and manifestations which must inevitably lead sooner or later to similar action across the border.

He concludes his review of the address of the Grand Z by saying:

"It would be hard to find a more efficient presiding officer that is Comp. J. Ross Robertson. His labors when Grand Master highly attest his ability and great efficiency."

Of Canada's action in recognizing the labours of the Companions in Victoria, he remarks, "Past rank was conferred on thirteen Companions in the Australian District. Our British brethren lay considerable stress on such rank, but in this country it does not prevail to any extent."

Doesn't it, though? One has only to visit the meeting place of some Commandery and examine the cards exchanged by the "Sir Knights." There isn't a rank or title that can be extracted from their numerous dignities, but is inscribed thereon and very often the two sides of the pasteboard is insufficient for the display of these "Grand," "Illustrious," and "Puissant" appellations.

He observes that a new constitution was adopted and expresses a desire for a copy, a request that we are most happy to comply with.

Very kindly he speaks of our report, and remarks that M. E. Comp. Henry Robertson "will be missed." Our remarks on the "pay roll" system he meets thus:

"He thinks Kentucky ought to follow the practice of Canada and require the Subordinate Chapters to bear the expense of their representatives. Well, that may be very well in Canada, but it will not work in Kentucky. The Subordinate Chapters pay into the treasury of the Grand Chapter one dollar for each member borne on its rolls, and this tax was made so large to insure that each Chapter shall be represented at the Convocations of the Grand Chapter. So what's the difference between paying the dues to the Grand Chapter and letting her pay the representatives, or reducing the dues and allowing the Subordinate Chapters to pay the expense? The present plan secures the largest attendance."

Without desiring to be considered captious, we are forced to maintain our contention and submit in support the proceedings before us as well as Comp. Staton's own admissions.

While Kentucky can boast some strong Chapters, it has also on its roll a number of weak ones. From the list the following is gathered. Note the cost of securing the largest attendance :

Dues from Chapter, \$16,	paid to Chapter Representative, \$11	92
" " 19,	" "	17 44
" " 18,	" "	13 04
" " 35,	" "	20 00
" " 27,	" "	20 00
" " 19,	" "	10 72
" " 19,	" "	10 56
" " 25,	" "	20 80
" " 15,	" "	9 76
" " 12,	" "	11 36
" " 20,	" "	20 00
" " 31,	" "	27 44
" " 42,	" "	25 44
" " 15,	" "	11 92
" " 31,	" "	18 56
" " 23,	" "	13 60
" " 25,	" "	16 40
" " 22,	" "	22 00
" " 12,	" "	12 00
" " 18,	" "	18 00
" " 18,	" "	17 12

Or, out of \$462 received from twenty-one Chapters, nearly \$350 is returned to their representatives. In addition it is noted that the dues of two Chapters, \$36 and \$42, were remitted ; but the representatives received their expenses, amounting to \$13.84 and \$14 respectively.

Now what are Comp. Staton's views? To the Washington reviewer who comments on the proposed amendment to cut off the Past Grand High Priests after three years, he says :

"All that we can say is, this same party has introduced this same amendment twice before this time, and was gloriously defeated.

These retrenching fellows never think it necessary to retrench on themselves. Grand Chapter pays three dollars per diem during the session, and eight cents per mile one way. The railroads never fail to give reduced rates, of one and one-third fare, making the travelling expenses about one-half the amount allowed. Some of the members, a very few however, stop at hotels paying the full amount of per diem ; some stop at

hotels paying two-thirds the amount, while a large majority stop at cheap hotels, paying one-third the amount allowed.

But every time a move at retrenchment is made it always strikes the class of members and officers who do the hard work, while the retrenchers stand off and look on with self-complacency that the work goes on by those whom they would cut off entirely, and do nothing but draw their mileage and per diem, have a good time and go home."

Under Georgia :

"Our experience in Kentucky is that when the subject of retrenchment and reform is brought up, the representatives are perfectly willing to strike anywhere and everywhere except mileage and per diem. If that part is mooted there is a 'holy kick' at once."

After the above, further comment would be superfluous, and we repeat that Kentucky's treasury will attain its former plethoric proportions when the system which Comp. Staton exposes will be abolished.

To the New York reviewer who regrets the absence of the expected lengthy report on Correspondence, he thus makes confession :

"We will rejoice with him when our financial depression shall come to an end, and will rejoice more when there is more interest taken in the propagation of this beautiful system of Masonry, so full of instruction and grandeur. But this will never be until Capitular Masonry in Kentucky can rise above the point of being made a mere stepping-stone from Blue Masonry, so called, to the orders of Christian Knighthood.

We are sorry to say what we have said, but candor and a close observation compels us to make the above declaration."

With reference to our remarks on the Masonic Home he reminds us that the records of Grand Chapter show that at one time it gave stock in the Masonic Temple to the extent of \$7000 and a donation of the same material subsequently. We are glad to note the fact but must submit in extenuation that we are reviewing the proceedings of a certain period and did not possess a copy of the records.

Much as we would like to linger with Comp. Staton and gather the many bright things from his admirable

report, cruel necessity compels us to continue our journey, but most cordially do we reciprocate the hope that we shall meet again.

John G. Orndorff, Russelville, Grand High Priest ;
Henry B. Grant, Louisville, Grand Secretary.

Louisiana.

Chapters, 19 : Members, 1,005.

Grand High Priest A. C. Allen presided over the Forty-ninth Annual Convocation, held at New Orleans, February 11th and 12th, 1896, the representatives of the nineteen Chapters on the roll being present. His address is again an interesting document :

“ When the nations of the earth in the past have been disturbed, when the beneficent era of peace has been arrested in the angry shock and disaster of contending physical forces, at all times, amid the wrath and fury of human contention. our Order has stood like a pillar of strength for peace, and the unity of love among all the peoples of the earth.

And, to-day, while the clouds of international strife are lowering, when the peace of this world's governments is endangered, let us of Louisiana, standing true to the example of our fathers, send fraternal greetings to our Companions across the seas, and unite with them in their laudable efforts to preserve the integrity and glory of this era of high moral advancement. and maintain a lasting peace and good will among the nations of the earth.

It is with pleasure that I am able to report that the condition of the Royal Craft in this State shows a marked improvement over that of last year. Our number has increased ; but far better than mere increase of numbers is the pleasant fact that there has been an increase in the energy and moral of the Craftsmen themselves.”

He recommended the recognition of the Grand Chapter of Victoria, and announced the investment of \$1008 of the funds in New Orleans bonds. He issued his dispensation for the establishment of a Chapter at Lake Charles, and stated that it already had conferred one hundred and four degrees. The charter was duly granted. Com. Drummond, of Maine, having criticized his adverse remarks of the previous year on the subject of the ritual approved by the General Grand Chapter, he attacks that embodiment of wisdom without gloves :

“He charges me with assuming that a cipher work is a violation of *our* obligation, I plead guilty to the charge as far as my obligation is concerned. His conscience and his obligation are entirely with himself, and do not, in any manner, concern the honest convictions of any Mason here who has the courage of his own opinion.

My Companion accuses me of an enthusiasm that has carried my utterances beyond the bounds of Masonic propriety.

The Royal Craft of this nation have an exalted respect for the opinions of this eminent Companion and for his profound Masonic knowledge. A true appreciation of this fact should influence him to, at least, tolerate the opinions which may differ from his in reference either to the policy or the ‘groundwork of Masonry.’ His appreciation of Masonic fairness, at all events, should guard himself against the error of unjust attack.

He makes the special charge that my position is in direct conflict with the universality of Masonry, and bases this charge on the assertion that I claim that ‘Louisiana work is superior to any other work.’ My address is a matter of record, and must speak for itself. It was, presumably, before my Companion when he was acting the part of a self-constituted censor. The mere comparing of the language of that address with his broad charge, as to what it contains in reference to this matter, will show that his accusation is inaccurate, unjust and unmasonic.

He will look in vain for proof of the charge that I said ‘Louisiana work is superior to any other work.’ It would have been unmasonic to have asserted it; it is grossly unmasonic in him to have charged in despite of the record.

I said that the printed Ritual which Companion Drummond seems to champion so warmly, was not, in my judgment, superior, and in some instances it was inferior to the recognized work of Louisiana. These words cannot be distorted so as to read truly as he has written them in his report.”

There is a risk in knowing too much, and it is appalling to reflect what sins the Grand Chapter has to answer for.

He closes with a deserved tribute to the labors of the Grand Lecturer whose compensation for valuable services he considers too small. Grand Chapter later increased the stipend to \$300.

An amendment to the constitution providing that the Chapter must open on the R. A., degree first, even to confer the subordinate degrees, was after considerable discussion rejected.

The Correspondence report is again the handiwork of that zealous Companion Rev. Hermon C. Duncan,

and is embraced within twenty-seven pages. Canada receives over two of them, the Grand Z's address on the subjects of Representative exchange and Marks, being quoted fully, as also our report on the Victorian settlement to which he adds :

“ From this it appears that the obstacles which have prevented our recognition of the Grand Chapter of Victoria have been removed. It is the sole recognized governing body of the Capitular Rite in that colony. Its constituents are of sufficient number. All Chapters in the colony are united in their obedience to it. It would appear, therefore, to be our fraternal duty to now extend our recognition and hearty welcome to this sovereign Grand Body, and to arrange for continued fraternal intercourse by an exchange of representatives and otherwise. A resolution to that effect is, therefore, hereto appended.”

The Past Master crops up again in a notice of a passage in our previous report.

“ The Correspondence Committee says that our chairman ‘ has yet to fully realize that there are not two Past Masters’ Degrees.’ He certainly has not, as he has received them both. If Companion Bennett had been as fortunate he would know the difference. We are forbidden to say more until we meet and he convinces us that he has the right to converse about both of them.”

Fortunate, or otherwise, we possess both under whatever name they may be called, and we know all about “ the difference ” else we would have held our peace. The difference, as we define it, is in the nomenclature. In Canada the degree pertaining to the Blue Lodge is known as the degree of an Installed Master. It is received on induction to office and the recipient is not a Past Master until his successor is elected and installed. The other thing might well be given that name for the material is brought up and the manufactured article turned out, all within a few minutes. Hence the remark that there are not two Past Masters’ degrees. Comp. Duncan adds :

“ In passing we may be permitted to say that we believe that the Body of Masonry might well flourish without a single one of its members having received either of these degrees or honors, yet we believe that the welfare of the Institution is pro-

moted by the retention of both of them, the lectures appertaining to them being properly understood and given. There is certainly no landmark wrapped up in the ceremonies of conferring them, and those ceremonies could well be amended, by addition or subtraction, if deemed necessary by the proper authorities, without injury to their moral teachings."

Of General Grand Chapter. and its constituents he has this to say under Arizona :

"The Grand Chapter of West Virginia was organized years ago, and welcomed to the circle of Grand Chapters then and there. Recently she joined the National League of Grand Chapters, known as the General Grand Chapter, and we said "we gladly welcome West Virginia." Our friend cannot read into this any thought that we imagined that West Virginia then only became a Grand Chapter. In our opinion it has not either added to nor subtracted from its legitimacy and perfectness as a Grand Chapter. We believe the Grand Chapter of, say Pennsylvania, is as much of a Grand Chapter to-day as is the Grand Chapter of Arizona, and that it would continue the peer say of the Grand Chapter of Canada, should it become, as it ought, a constituent of the General Grand Chapter. The Grand Chapter of Texas is as much a Grand Chapter to-day as when a constituent of the General Grand Chapter. It is a thousand pities that some of our Capitular members do not know that the respective authorities of the General Grand Chapter and the Grand Encampment are not altogether parallel. It is several thousand pities that the General Grand High Priest ever meddled with the organization of a Grand Chapter, and thereby led some unwary Companions into darkness."

This is how he argues the physical perfection dogma :

"A brother was elected to receive the degrees in a Chapter, and after receiving two of them, he was wounded in such a manner as to render him, in the language of a committee, 'ineligible had the physical defects existed at the time of his application for the Chapter degrees.' Yet, they said, he had vested rights to the other degrees, and ought to receive them. We dissent *in toto* from this decision. The man lost a hand, and Missouri law says such a man is ineligible. If the wound had been inflicted before he petitioned at all, he would have been rejected. But, forsooth, because the disqualification came after he had paid his money, he was ineligible. Suppose the man had lost his mind at the time he lost his hand, would his 'vested rights' have compelled the Chapter to confer the remaining degrees? Suppose he had lost his moral integrity, in the interval between receiving any of the degrees, would his

'vested rights' have compelled the Chapter to finish its work on him? Nay; but a man may be eligible one day, and ineligible the next, and no payment of money can outweigh his ineligibility. The Chapter should have returned the proportion of his money for which he had not received an equivalent, and the Grand Chapter should repeal its physical qualification law, learning to look more at the interval and less at the external and mercenary qualifications of its novitiates."

Under Nova Scotia he thus comments on a suggestion from the Grand High Priest:

"The address of the Grand High Priest suggests to the Grand Chapter of Canada a curtailment of its title, inasmuch as its jurisdiction is not coterminous with the Dominion of Canada. This is true; but what would our Most Excellent have done—string together in the title the names of all the provinces in which the Grand Chapter has jurisdiction, or confine the title to one of them, like our Nova Scotia brethren, in similar cases? But, in respect to the latter, is not the 'Canada' situation different from that of Nova Scotia? However, we doubt the propriety of any of us outside of 'Canada' discussing this question."

R. H. Cage, Franklin, Grand High Priest; Richard Lambert. New Orleans, Grand Secretary.

Maine.

Chapters 54; Members 5,714.

Three score and ten years has this Grand Chapter seen. Its Seventieth Annual Convocation was held at Portland, May 7th and 8th, 1895. M. E. Comp. Seward S. Stearns, Grand High Priest, in his address announced a substantial and healthy increase in membership. He complains of an individual in Somerville, Mass., who offers by circular to furnish a printed copy of Maine's Ritual, and fears that some of the members have been induced to violate the regulations, and says:

"The regulation forbidding the use of printed rituals should be repealed or some effective steps taken for its enforcement. An institution invites disrespect when its statutes become dead letters and are disregarded by its own membership."

The business of Grand Chapter was mainly of local interest. The reports of the inspecting officers indicated zeal and progress. Companion Drummond, as usual, prepares the report on Correspondence, and furnishes an intellectual feast. He leads off with an extended review of General Grand Chapter. Of the choice of officers he pointedly observes :

“ We notice that all the officers were ‘ promoted in line.’ If this policy is continued, each officer will hold office *thirty-six consecutive years*, except so far as the arrangement is disturbed by deaths. We deprecate this practice, because we believe that the election of Masonic officers should be within the unfettered discretion of those who elect them, and this system gives an officer, in his own eyes, a *right* to promotion, and if it is denied, he and his friends claim that a gross injustice has been done him, although, theoretically speaking, all admit (except in their own case) that no one *can* have a right to be elected to Masonic office.”

Under Canada he devotes considerable attention to the now adjusted Australian difficulty. Of our Grand Superintendents he says “ they maintain the reputation they have acquired.”

To Comp. Foster, of Colorado, whose views on dependent membership are pronounced, he says :

“ ‘ Dependent membership ’ would throw a man out of the Chapter without regard to the law of the Grand Lodge. In those jurisdictions (and they are yet in a large majority) in which the modern innovation, a violation of the very obligations of a Mason, has not been introduced, an unaffiliated Mason is in good standing, unless he has lost it in the manner fixed by the old law and ancient usages of the Craft, viz : *by trial and conviction*. We admit that if a Grand Lodge, in violation of the landmarks, makes an unaffiliated Mason an ‘ outcast from Masonry,’ the Chapters in that jurisdiction must abide the consequences, not under the law of ‘ dependent membership ’ or of anything else that the Grand Chapter or Chapter can do, but because *the Grand Lodge has so enacted*. The advocates of dependent membership remind us of the old fable of the fox, who had lost his tail, and wanted all the other foxes *to cut theirs off* : their Grand Lodges have adopted a law practically *forcing* ‘ dependent membership ’ upon them, and now they want all the other Grand Chapters to adopt it *voluntarily* ! As we remember it, the other foxes did not ‘ see it in that light ’ !

Let us not be misunderstood : we hold that the Grand

Lodges, which have adopted this innovation, have violated a landmark of the institution ; but it is not in the power of the Grand Chapter to set this action aside, and the consequences of disregarding it would be too disastrous to cause it to make the attempt."

Referring to the big record of a couple of Michigan Chapters in putting through an extraordinary number of candidates in one evening, he very aptly remarks :

" We do not care how much work a Chapter does provided it takes a proper time to do it, and does not forget that the object of the work is *to teach Masonry* and not *to make Masons*."

" Usage " he claims in support of the Past Master's degree. Because " it is there " he is its champion. No matter what its defects or merits, its plain existence commands his protection. Here is how he replies to Comp. Mayo, of Missouri, and proclaims himself a chivalrous defender of the weak :

" But he goes too far. He denies that there is any Past Master's degree connected with the Mastership of a Lodge. But at a time, whereof the memory of man runneth not to the contrary, a ceremony was invented for the Master of a lodge, and it has been called the Past Master's degree, and Masons concurred in calling that ceremony by that name, and the term gained general use among Masons, and that use has continued to the present time. So firmly was the usage established, that Webb and his associates, in order to keep up the old idea that the Royal Arch degree could be conferred only on Past Masters and also to make the number of degrees *seven*, adopted an imitation of it for the Chapter. The inventors of it had a right to give it a name, and when common usage sanctioned the name given to it, that was its name. But Comp. Mayo says that it is not a *proper* name for it ; can't help that, it *is* its name all the same : he says it is not a degree and to call it so is a misnomer ; can't help that, it *is* so called all the same. Usage makes words and names ; and when common usage among the Craft for quite a century has given a name to a ceremony, it is too late to kick as to its propriety ; we cannot turn back the wheels of time and do it over again.

But after all, the main thing is, that this so-called degree has from a time before Webb's day been conferred on Masters of lodges, either as a part of the ceremony of installation or as instruction to the Master ; in both cases, it was deemed of very essential service in qualifying him for the duties of the chair. Whether this is so or not, is now of no consequence ; it has become an ancient usage of the Craft, and there is no right to

change it. It may be true that while Webb took the number necessary to constitute a lodge from the old ceremony, the name 'degree' was not applied to it till Webb did it; of this we are not sure, and it makes no difference, for the name is now a part of the language."

Had the illustrious Webb, in his old time wisdom, dubbed it "the Magnanimous Order of the Yellow Jacket and Peacock Feather," it would have made no difference. No matter how incongruous or absurd, the anomaly is sustained by "usage." It may be that our fathers erred, but two generations have sanctified the error and transformed it into a "beautiful tradition."

"He ne'er presumed to make an error clearer,
In short, there never was a better hearer."

North Carolina asks why Maine provides six Grand Chaplains, and Comp. Drummond replies "it so came down to us from the fathers." In this case however one must pause before questioning the wisdom of the ancient regulation and its maintenance as a "usage."

To the same reviewer he remarks:

"We understand from his report that a member stricken from the roll for non-payment of dues, regains his membership by payment of his dues, *without ballot*: we were not before aware that this system was in force anywhere. In some jurisdictions, and we supposed in all, in which members are dropped for non payment of dues, membership can be regained only by payment of dues and upon petition and a unanimous ballot."

Canada likewise restores to membership without petition and ballot, Companions so suspended, upon payment of the amount owing at the time of suspension. To place Companions suspended for non-payment of dues in the same category as those punished after trial and conviction for serious offences, has not been regarded in this jurisdiction as wholly consistent with justice. While it is true that the knowledge that "dropping out," entailing another application and ballot, might deter many from the negligence that occasions so many suspensions, it is equally true that the ordeal will bear hard upon those, who, from circum-

stances of unforeseen misfortune, were unable to meet their obligations for a period, and hesitated from feelings of delicacy to disclose the cause. The very diffidence which kept them silent at the time of their suspension would be more than likely to interfere with a natural inclination to return when fortune smiled upon them once more. The repetitioning and unanimous ballot would thus be a deterrent with a double action effect.

We gladly quote Comp. Drummond's "conclusion" to his truly admirable report as an argument in support of Canada's position on the question of suspension for non-payment of dues.

"In our report last year, we expressed the opinion, that the then current year would show the effect of the financial depression to even a greater extent than the year before. The result justifies our expectation; the net gain in membership has fallen off from over four and one-half per cent. to less than three and one-half per cent. The exaltations have fallen off somewhat, while the admissions and restorations have increased. The dismissals have slightly increased, but suspensions for non-payment of dues have increased *over twenty per cent.* and the deaths about *nine per cent.* We repeat our suggestion of last year, with emphasis born of the statistics, that our Chapters should exercise the greatest care in dealing with those in arrears and make sure that they do not err on the side of severity. The increase of suspensions in times of financial depression exclusively proves that decrease of income cuts a large figure in the question of arrears of dues.

May the Craft be endowed with such wisdom that no brother shall be deprived of his Masonic rights on account of his poverty, permanent or temporary!"

Henry S. Webster, Gardiner, Grand High Priest;
Stephen Barry, Portland, Grand Secretary.

Maryland.

Chapters 18; Members 1,662.

In the city of Baltimore, and on the 12th November, 1895, the Ninety-eight Annual Convocation assembled. M. E. Comp. Edward R. Trippe, Grand High Priest presided, and detailed the official acts of a year in a compact address. A severe accident prevented

his contemplated visitations, but Grand Lecturer Dukehart was zealous as of yore. There was nothing to engage the attention of the Grievances Committee.

An art portrait of the General Grand High Priest, Comp. Geo. L. McCahan, procured by his Companions and friends for presentation to Grand Chapter, was unveiled by Comp. Thomas J. Shryock.

Montgomery Chapter, U. D., was granted its charter.

A proposed amendment to the constitution making the fee for degrees in city Chapters fifty in place of thirty dollars, and in country Chapters twenty-five in place of twenty, was rejected, and a further amendment making the fees twenty and fifteen dollars respectively, was adopted.

The committee on the Centennial celebration in 1897, recommends June 24 of that year, the anniversary of the formation of the Grand Chapter, as an appropriate date.

Comp. Edward T. Schultz is again the knight of the quill, and presents an enjoyable report, giving to Canada its due meed of notice. The Grand Z's address he calls "an able and interesting paper. Its perusal proves M. E. Comp. J. Ross Robertson to have been earnest and zealous in behalf of the Capitular rite in his jurisdiction." He quotes from the address frequently, and refers in passing to the reports of the Grand Superintendents and the Committee's report thereon.

To the reviewer he extends a most fraternal greeting, and extracts some of our comments on Maryland. He says:

"He succeeds our old friend, Comp. Henry Robertson, who for more than twenty years furnished the reports to his Grand Chapter. We experience a feeling of sadness in parting with Comp. Robertson, but heartily welcome Comp. Bennett as a member of the Correspondence Corps. His report has all the characteristics of a veteran rather than those of a novice, and we regret we must confine our notice to the few remarks he makes in his review of our proceedings."

Among the standing committees of Maryland is one "On Conference." The Louisiana reviewer, on examination, discovered that it was nothing more nor less than the Committee on Credentials, and pauses to criticize Comp Schultz, and thus explains :

" We can only say that said term has come down to us from ' ye olden time,' and we presume the only reason for its retention is the dislike Maryland Masons have to innovate upon the usages and customs of the fathers.

The Constitution of our Grand Lodge, adopted in 1795, just one hundred years ago, provided for the appointment, at each of its sessions, a committee to ' attend to visiting Brethren.' This, in course of time, became known as the ' Committee of Conference with visiting Brethren,' and later simply as ' Committee on Conference.' Whatever the duties of this committee may have been originally we do not know, but we find that from 1828 to the present time they included an examination of the credentials of the representatives of the Subordinate Lodges, and the same usage has prevailed in our Grand Chapter from an early period."

If the foregoing is satisfactory to Comp. Duncan, how much more so must it be to Comp. Drummond, who will doubtless recommend " conference " to the Companions of Maine as being in conformity with the " usages and customs of the fathers." Nothing that " the fathers " have handed down can be wrong.

Under Minnesota he notices that a Companion suspended for non-payment of dues can only be restored to membership by " payment of dues in full and upon petition in due form and unanimous ballot," and adds, " could less be demanded if he had been *expelled* from all the rights of Capitular Masonry ? "

The distinction between the so called Past Master's degrees is a subject of discussion with Comp. Mayo, of Missouri, which he closes thus :

" Our regulations say no one can be elected to the degree of Royal Arch Mason unless he be a Master Mason, and has also received the several degrees of Mark Past and Most Excellent Masters. Now, if we know that a Brother has received the Past Master's degree, has, as the old regulations say, presided in the Oriental Chair of King Solomon, is it not just as nonsensical to require a reconferment of that degree upon him as it would be to require the reconferment of the Master degree.

Mark Masters hailing from England desiring exaltation in our Chapters are not required to have the Mark degree reconferred upon them; they are simply *healed*, and that, in our opinion, is all that should be required of an actual Past Master applying for the Chapter degrees. We can readily understand why an actual Past Master should not recognize a *virtual* Past Master, but we can't understand why the latter should not recognize the former."

He disagrees with a Virginian decision which held that the Chapter degrees could not be conferred upon a Master Mason under twenty-one years of age who had received the Master's degree in England, and says:

"In this we think the Grand Master erred. Formerly, in England, the son of a Master Mason at the age of eighteen years could be made a Mason. He was termed a 'Lewis.' We do not know if this regulation is still in force, but we do know that the degrees may be conferred by dispensation upon one of eighteen years old. If, therefore, the Brother in question received the Symbolic degrees, either under the old regulation referred to or by dispensation from the proper authorities, he is *lawfully* made Master Mason, and in our opinion a Chapter can properly receive his petition."

In all of which we concur, and may add that in most views expressed by Comp. Schultz we are in entire sympathy and would like to continue quoting but that our limit is reached.

William H. Shryock, Baltimore, Grand High Priest;
George L. McCahan, Baltimore, Grand Secretary.

Massachussets.

Chapters 74; Members 13,944.

The proceedings of the Quarterly Convocations, held in March, June and September, preceded the record of the Annual Convocation, held at Boston, on the 10th December, 1895, and are mainly of local interest. The destructive fire in the Masonic Temple in September made it necessary to accept temporary quarters in the hall of the Roxbury district, but the loss to Grand Chapter otherwise was not serious.

After the customary exemplification of the work, the regular business of Grand Chapter commenced with the delivery of the annual address by the Grand High Priest, M. E. Comp. J. Gilman Waite. He reported a general prosperity and an accession of numbers never before equalled, and failed not to give due credit for a measure of this to the coming of the Triennial Conclave of Knights Templars. To the same source he attributes a falling off in the interest that would otherwise attach to the schools of instruction. Under notices and reports he has this to say :

“ My attention has been called to a matter which, though it may not be a very common practice, I deem it my duty to notice. I refer to the sending of Masonic notices which contain matter which is to be acted upon in a ‘ tiled body ’ unsealed, or, still worse, upon postal cards.

The element of economy involved is not of sufficient consideration to warrant its practice. The liability of exposing the affairs of the body to the uninitiated is an adequate reason for its abandonment entirely. In this matter of publicity, may we not look a little further and in another direction, and consider the great impropriety of permitting the transactions of a Masonic body to become the property of the secular press for dissemination to the general public? I hold to the position that a lodge-room is no place for a ‘ reporter ’ to pursue his vocation. The growing prevalence with which the affairs of the Craft are paraded, beside the many ephemeral societies of the day, cheapens the respect in which the members of the fraternity hold the institution.”

Companion Seranus Bowen again presents the report on Correspondence, and furnishes an instructive and enjoyable appendix to an interesting volume.

He is a champion of the wooden leg, that is of course when the proprietor of the same can comply with the requirements, and says in support of a recent decision at Washington :

“ Why should he not be eligible, just as well as a Brother who is unable to see without glasses? We have heard men who couldn’t see at all without the aid of glasses argue that no man should be permitted to receive the degrees without he could literally comply with all the requirements without the aid of mechanical appliances. If glasses are not mechanical appliances what are they?”

To Nebraska's proposal to incorporate the Cryptic Rite with the Chapter, he says :

"We believe heartily in the utility and beauty of the Council degrees, that every Mason *must* have them if he wishes to attain the summit of Ancient Craft Masonry, but we don't believe Council Masonry can be built up by any such means as those suggested above. Every Body in Masonry should be willing to stand or fall according to its own merits and not depend on some other Body to push it to the front. We believe such action as that proposed tends to lower and belittle Council Masonry. This is 'dependent membership' with a vengeance."

He gives freely of his space to Canada, and is laudatory of M. E. Comp. J. Ross Robertson's address, which he says "is worthy of all the attention that can be bestowed on it." He culls a page of quotations and is equally generous with our own report. He regrets the retirement of Comp. Henry Robertson, "one of the very best of the reviewers," and is kind enough to say that his successor is a welcome addition to the corps.

He is an uncompromising foe to the introduction of mixed choirs, as are we, and in criticizing the innovation he apparently trod on the favorite corn of the Ohio Companion, who accuses him of "gentle sarcasm." Comp. Bowen replies :

"We disclaim any sarcasm, and certainly have no intention of saying anything to offend; but we feel very strongly that the practice of admitting those who are not Masons during the working of the degrees, even though they are behind a curtain, is all wrong. You might just as well hoodwink them and let them bodily into the hall itself. No amount of argument can convince us that that is doing the work in a place that is properly tyled. If the same amount of energy were put into a proper and effective rendition of the Ritual that is expended in introducing music in the way alluded to, it would be of great advantage to the Chapter work."

J. Gilman Waite, Medford, Grand High Priest ;
Seranus Bowen, Boston, Grand Secretary.

Michigan.

Chapters 127 ; Members 12,677.

Exceeded in strength only by some four or five others, Michigan may be regarded as one of the most important, as it is one of the most historic jurisdictions on the continent. Its Forty-seventh Annual Convocation, presided over by M. E. Comp. Chas. D. Blanchard, whose pleasant countenance lights up the frontispiece to the proceedings, was held in Detroit, January 15 and 16, 1896.

The Grand High Priest presented an address covering 18 pp. of the proceedings, in which he furnishes and extensive record of the work of himself and others. Touchingly he refers to the deaths of Past Grand High Priest Michael Shoemaker and Grand King Charles P. Hunt, and to the dead of sister jurisdictions, pays becoming tribute.

The Companions were of an enquiring turn during the year, for he was asked many questions, some of which with their replies are worthy of note.

He decided that an applicant who had lost the first two fingers of the right hand was ineligible, also that it is the duty of the committee to which is referred a petition, to ascertain whether the candidate is in good standing in his lodge.

"It is manifestly the duty of the committee on application to ascertain if the candidate is in good standing in his lodge. There is no prescribed rule as to how they shall obtain this information—their good judgment must govern as to the manner of obtaining it."

While it may reasonably be made the duty of the Committee to ascertain the fact under the rules governing Michigan, it is questionable whether the Secretary of a Lodge could be expected to furnish such information, except as a matter of courtesy. The Grand High Priest evidently viewed it that way.

"Question.—Is an objection that is filed previous to the receipt of the Brother's petition valid?"

Answer.—No. No objection can be valid until the candidate is elected."

The question, to our imperfect vision, is as obscure as the reply is vague. How can an objection be filed to anything that does not exist? The candidate's election is decided by the ballot, and if a Companion chooses to drop into the box a black ball, is not that an objection that precludes the possibility of election? In Canada we regard the ballot box as the arbiter. Notice of the brother's application is sent to every Companion and due time allowed for all, either to exercise their privilege with the ballot, or if unable to be present, to file a protest with the First Principal or Secretary, but the candidate having passed the ballot and been declared elected, a subsequent objection, prior to initiation, must be soundly supported before the Council of the Chapter to secure a stay of proceedings:

"Question.—Under ruling eleven, page 44 Digest, is it necessary for a Chapter to prefer charges and suspend a Companion who has been dimitted from his lodge for more than a year, or should the High Priest order the Secretary to record him as suspended without any further action from the Chapter?"

Answer.—The High Priest should order the Secretary to record the Companion suspended, setting forth the reasons therefor; no further action is necessary.

Question.—Has a Chapter any right or power to admit as a visitor a Companion who has been dimitted from both lodge and Chapter for several years?

Answer.—No. A Companion who voluntarily remains dimitted from both Lodge and Chapter for several years, should be denied all the rights and benefits of Capitular Masonry. It would be manifestly unjust to those who have borne the burden and heat of the day to permit another who has borne none of the burdens to reap the benefits of their labor. 'He who will not work, neither shall he eat.'

There is an element of harshness in this that lends to the "dependent membership" system an aspect foreign to the spirit of the Craft. One can understand the penalty of suspension in the Chapter, following a similar edict in the Lodge, but that it should be visited upon a Companion who is a demitted member of a Blue Lodge, and therefore in good standing, is hardly

consistent with justice and certainly not with the freedom which it is understood our fraternity boasts. It may have been for very good and excellent reasons that the Companion withdrew from his Lodge. The associations were possibly such as to render the meeting the reverse of pleasant, and being a conscientious brother he could not, in the light of his obligations, continue to hold membership and at the same time be expected to obey the summons. Should he then for this reason be deprived of his Chapter companionship?

A case in point occurs to us. A small town, which by the way, is located not far from Michigan, possessed among its progressive and most estimable citizens, one who for many years had been active in the Masonic bodies of the place. A young man of good address, bearing a favorable reputation from an eastern city, arrived there to take up an influential position, and in due time was accepted in the lodge. He found favor with the brother referred to, was admitted to his friendship, and introduced, unfortunately, to his home. The hospitality so generously shown him he violated in the most cruel manner, and the domestic surroundings that were once bright and pleasant to a loving and indulgent father became shadowed in deepest gloom. For obvious reasons he held his peace, but retired from membership in the lodge which still numbered on its roll one who had occasioned him his life's great sorrow. He, for a period, found solace from his own distress in extending relief to fellow creatures in affliction, and when time, the great healer had blunted his grief somewhat, again sought his Chapter to renew the fraternal friendships of other days, and which, under the circumstances, he could not do elsewhere. He passed away a few months later surrounded by the Companions who revered him. It is needless to say, dependant membership would have made his declining days sad indeed.

“ So justice while she winks at crime
Stumbles on innocence sometimes.”

The decision of the Grand High Priest that the Secretary should be ordered to record the Companion

suspended from the Chapter, and that no further action was necessary, did not however accord with the views of the Jurisprudence Committee, which declared that it was at variance with every well settled principle of Masonic law, and that no brother can be deprived of his Masonic rights except by charges, specifications and trial."

Which was all right, but Michigan's penal code somehow strains at the quality of mercy occasionally, as witness the same Committee's extinguisher on what, to the ordinary reader, unacquainted with Michigan's cast iron laws, was a most reasonable decision of the Grand High Priest. He was asked "can a Companion be expelled for non-payment of dues?" to which he replied:

"No. The application of extreme penalty in punishment for a minor offence is at variance with both civil and Masonic law."

And the Committee thereupon hurled the code at him.

"This answer is not in accordance with Edit XV., which provides that when a Companion has been tried and convicted for the Masonic offence of non-payment of dues, the Chapter shall forthwith inflict the penalty of expulsion or indefinite suspension, as it may deem proper; and in case the Chapter shall neglect or refuse to inflict such penalty, the Grand High Priest shall arrest the charter of the Chapter refusing to execute this edict."

Artemus Ward it was who remarked in a burst of gratitude, "blessins onto the man that invented beans." The Companion who invented "Edict XV." evidently wearied of his heroic task before completing it. The provisions for arrest are not sufficiently comprehensive. To render it a harmonious whole, the entire membership ought to be included and under escort of a properly equipped drill corps, led out for incarceration. In case of contumacy the latter should then be commanded to apply the fraternal snickersee, the onlookers with graceful genuflection audibly responding, "So much for Buckingham."

"Can a Chapter of Royal Arch Masons admit a visitor who has not received the Past Master's degree?"

This is answered 'No,' and reference is made to Sec. 1, Article 9."

The divining rod is not necessary to seek for the origin of the question. The Grand High Priest's decisive negative and simple reference to "Sec. 1, Art. 9," is not however enough for the members of the Committee, who apparently desire to enlighten those who are not acquainted with "Sec. 1, Art. 9."

"While the answer is partially correct, the Grand High Priest should have gone further, for the last clause of the section quoted says: 'Provided that nothing in this section shall exclude Mark Masters, Past Masters, and Most Excellent Masters from the right to visit a Chapter while working upon any degree to which they have attained.'

With this explanation your committee recommend the decision be approved."

Which being interpreted means, that a visitor having carefully chosen his Mark, can visit a Mark Master's Lodge. But he is not a P. M., and so missing that portal proceeds a step higher, where being a Most Excellent Master, he is admitted to a M. E. M. Lodge. He climbs still further where he finds that as a R. A. Mason he is excluded from the Chapter because he hasn't been duly seated in the Oriental chair "two stories below." To be consistent, "Sec. 1, Art. 9" should also exclude from the M. E. M. degree those brethren or Companions who do not possess the preceding degree.

The Grand High Priest appealed in July to the Companions for aid to enable the Masonic Home to meet necessary demands. Thirty-five out of the hundred and twenty-seven Chapters responded with nearly one thousand dollars. Surely their investment is good, and that it may yield abundantly is devoutly hoped.

The Grand Secretary recommended the procuring of photographs of all Past Grand High Priests, to be framed and hung up in the Grand Secretary's office,

wisely suggesting that they would be prized in after years.

At the outset of the report on Correspondence Grand Secretary Conover, chairman, announces that Companion W. M. Bailey and Thomas G. Green have divided up the labours with him and he answers for their work. As a matter of fact the work speaks for itself. The report throughout is an excellent one, and as the initials of the reviewer are appended in each case, credit can be given where credit is due. Canada falls to the lot of Comp. Green.

Of the Grand Z's address he says :

"We would be glad to copy it in full if our space would permit. It is replete with gems of wit and wisdom, and displays in every sentence an earnest devotion to the principles of Masonry, although we cannot endorse everything it contains."

He quotes from Comp. Henry Robertson's valedictory and says many kind things of him, and is equally kind in greeting his successor. He says :

"Comp. Bennett then proceeds to justify the good opinion which his predecessor evidently entertained of his abilities by presenting one of the ablest and most interesting reports which have come to our hands. He devotes three full pages to Michigan, more than half of which is occupied with an argument in defence of his Grand Chapter for removing the Past Master from the list of Chapter degrees. And in an effort to convince the Royal Arch Masons of Michigan that they may consistently visit Canadian Chapters when the R. A. D. is being conferred he says :

'Although the Past Master has gone out, the latch-string hangs invitingly as of yore.'

We can assure Companion Bennett that we appreciate the generous hospitality of our Canadian Companions and would gladly pull their latch-string 'as of yore,' but what shall we do with our R. A. O. B.? We cannot conveniently lay them aside. The action of the Grand Chapter of Canada on this question may be more far-reaching than appears upon the surface."

We fear that Comp. Green has misread us. We did not submit, as he avers, a defence of our Grand Chapter for removing the Past Master, for the simple reason that Canada in this matter is not on its defence.

It is only those jurisdictions which reluctantly maintain the so-called degree that have to hustle round for something to prop it up. On the contrary Canada has turned the thing out body and bones, and is proud of the achievement, and if by precept, argument or example it can bring others to speak their minds and act on their convictions, something will have been effected.

Except there is something concealed in Michigan's terrible penal code, we know of nothing under the vast ethereal canopy to prevent a Michigan R. A. Mason from visiting a Canadian Chapter. Our remarks were simply embodied in a reply to Comp. Conover's question in that connection. Defence of a righteous action would be to shroud that action in suspicion, hence we have nothing to defend. Moreover we earnestly hope that Comp. Green's prediction may be verified and that Canada's action "may be more far reaching than appears on the surface." We believe too, that if every Grand Chapter exercised an independence similar to Canada, the example of the latter would be speedily followed by many. The prevailing sentiment is against the retention of the P. M. degree and only a dutiful submission to the General Grand Chapter which has legislated for its recognition, prevents a number of its subordinates from coming out flat footed and doing just as Canada has done.

If there is a regret at all, it is that Canadian Companions who desire to visit Chapters across the border, may for a time be subjected to the unpleasantness of refusal, but a few cases of this kind will only assist to bring our American Companions to realize the absurdity of a regulation which compels them to act thus harshly towards those, who, in as legitimate a manner, have been employed at the foundations and have discovered that for which they both journeyed wearily.

Comp. Green's observation to Comp. Barlow of Connecticut, whose admiration for the P. M. degree is not of the most exalted kind, and who says it would be better to eliminate it, is worth recording. He says:

“What would become of the great army of aspirants for Knightly honors?

Better eliminate the *horse play* and let the degree remain.”

And his fellow reviewer, Comp. Bailey, has this to say under Pennsylvania, and in it we see, not only a bright ray of hope for Michigan but a corroboration of our own views:

“We have never been an ardent admirer of this degree, and hope that the agitation may go on until such time as the degree shall be eliminated from the Capitular ritual.”

An experience of Comp. Green's, related by him in connection with a very commendable criticism on the propriety of mixed choirs, shows to what lengths our letter-of-the-law brethren across the border will go sometimes, when the check rein is in negligent hands.

“The writer hereof, not long since, witnessed the conferring of the third degree in a lodge in an adjoining State, and was surprised and shocked to hear Pleyel's Hymn, rendered by a mixed choir of male and female voices, in an ante-room separated from the main hall by a curtain only.”

Lou. B. Winsor, Reed City, Grand High Priest;
Jefferson S. Conover, Coldwater, Grand Secretary.

Minnesota.

Chapters, 58; members, 4,615.

The Thirty-fourth Annual Convocation held at St. Paul on October 8th, 1895, was declared open for business at 10 o'clock in the forenoon.

“The Grand Secretary had prepared a roll of members, which was called, the attendance, in person or by proxy, noted, and a report submitted in a few minutes.”
No flies on Minnesota!

The Grand High Priest, M. E. Frank B. Fobes, was not behind in his desire to be up with the procession. His address is comparatively brief. He opens with thanks for an abundant harvest and the evidences

of prosperity. He thus notes a singular event which seems to have been negligently passed over by the rest of his confreres :

“The anti-Masonic storm that arose upon a foreign land came sweeping across the broad ocean with a mighty roar. Upon the crest of the storm-driven billows as they came rolling in we could read superstition, jealousy, hatred. Upon the greatest of them all, those which apparently impelled all the others, we read bigotry and fanaticism. They have dashed against our shores with their mighty force, only to fall back into the vast deep carrying nothing with them save a few weak projecting crags whose anchorage was weakness and decay, and whose loss adds strength to our beloved Order.”

He records seven personal visitations ; the constitution, by proxy, of a Chapter at Detroit, and the issue of a dispensation for one at Willmar, which gives promise of a vigorous growth. The charter was subsequently granted. In the May previous he issued a commission to R. E. Comp. W. Downie, of Vancouver, B. C., to represent Minnesota near the Grand Chapter of Canada.

Among his recommendations is one to enforce the regulation making the registration of Marks imperative ; also that provision be made for an exemplification of work in order to insure uniformity.

He urges decorum in the rendition of the degrees, and quotes a District Visitor, who reports :

“I find in all the Chapters a disposition to make the Past Master’s degree more or less of a farce, and in the Royal Arch degree a tendency on the part of some of the Companions to descend to buffoonery.”

The General Grand Chapter Ritual was adopted as the official work.

A resolution providing for the purchase of a gold jewel for each Past Grand High Priest was rejected, as was also a motion to reduce the fees for certificate and registration.

The zealous Grand Secretary, Comp. Thomas Montgomery, again furnishes the report on Correspondence, in which he gives three pages to extracts from and comment on M. E. Comp. J. Ross Robertson’s address.

He fraternally mentions the old reviewer, and welcomes the new, whom he "hopes will prove to be a worthy successor." So mote it be. He says:

"He starts out as one who is ready to hold his own in argument, and we expect to see the fur fly on the slightest provocation. The first outbreak is in the review of Indiana, in a sharp criticism of Companion Long on the Past Master's degree. In Canada he says there is no similiarity between the Past Master's degree and that of Installed Master, and defends their action in abolishing the degree from their system. It may be valueless in many respects, but it is part of the system of Capitular Masonry of the General Grand Chapter of the United States, and so recognized by the Grand Encampment of Knights Templar, and cannot, therefore be eliminated without destroying the whole system as it now exists in this country."

It is just possible that Canada has overlooked that important matter of recognition by the Grand Encampment. That so august a body should lend its countenance to "that part of the system," is a feature unquestionably new, and is entitled to our most serious consideration. Strange that it never struck us that way before, but the longer we live the more we learn. We can understand now why some of the fellows stick to it, only it's queer that they omitted to give their reason. One thing is clear: the Past Master, through Comp. Montgomery, has been furnished with an additional crutch.

"Minnesota is criticised for a provision requiring a petition and unanimous ballot to restore to membership. We do not suspend for non-payment of dues, as our Companion assumes. For over forty years one uniform practice has been followed in Minnesota, and it works to our entire satisfaction, and is our law, viz., arrears for dues for over two years subjects the delinquent to lose his membership. He is given ample time to pay. What is there harsh about that? He becomes a non-affiliate, and should he be restored to membership in the same lodge or Chapter, or to acquire membership elsewhere, he must pay his arrears and petition for membership like any other non-affiliate. That is all there is to it. We encourage affiliation by making no charge therefor. The harshness, it seems to us, is in the practice that puts the brand of suspension from all the rights and privileges of Masonry on such a delinquent. Our laws forbid us to suspend for non-payment of dues only, hence the ruling of Grand High Priest Jewett was correct."

Comp. Montgomery here makes it plain that Minne-

sota does not suspend for non-payment of dues, as we assumed; nothing so cruel. They humanely avoid putting "the brand of suspension" upon a Companion by firing him out altogether, or, to put it in fraternal phraseology, "removing him from the roll." The delicate distinction is charming. A Companion who has been in distress for a couple of years and unable to meet his dues, loses his membership by the simple process of removing his name. If he wants to return, all he has to do is to pay up and again face the ordeal of the ballot. His application may meet with rejection, the origin of which is probably to be traced to some petty outside transaction. He has the privilege, however, of trying again and again, until he finally retires from the fruitless quest, regretting his want of success, but happy in the knowledge that he has never been "branded" with suspension.

Removal, however, is the law in Minnesota, and Comp. Montgomery declares that it works satisfactorily. He further says that a petition for restoration to membership is rarely refused. The possibility is there just the same. He furnishes a very clear exposition of the situation to the Louisiana correspondent, who has taken the same view of it as ourselves; and also to him of New York, who intimated that Minnesota treated Companions unable to pay dues as criminals.

A most entertaining report is closed with a valuable statistical compilation in which the Companions of Minnesota must take special interest.

Charles D. Boyce, Minneapolis, Grand High Priest;
Thomas Montgomery, St. Paul, Grand Secretary.

1896.

M. E. Comp. Chas. D. Boyce, whose portrait accompanies the volume of proceedings, presided over the Thirty-fifth Annual Convocation at St. Paul on the 13th October, fifty-one out of the fifty-eight Chapters being represented.

As before, "the roll was called, attendance noted, and a report submitted in a few minutes."

Canada's representative did not appear among the

list of Grand Chapter envoys recorded, and turning to the list of of Grand Representatives in the appendix for further light, we discovered that Canada has been "wiped out."

The Grand High Priest's address indicated that the list of Grand Representatives demanded revision. He was right.

He constituted the Chapter at Willmar and entertains the hope of it becoming one of the best on the list. It ought to be if cared for in the future as at its birth.

"The members and visitors were treated to a banquet prepared and tendered by the members of the Eastern Star, and all the Companions who accompanied me unite in the sentiment that the ladies of Willmar are as good and beautiful cooks as they are handsome and entertaining hostesses."

He answered numerous questions and sensibly refrains from publishing them. He directed special attention to the necessity for perfection in the recently adopted work and urged vigilance on the part of the district visitors.

The next annual convocation was changed from October to November so as not to clash with the meeting of General Grand Chapter.

Companion Montgomery is again to the fore with a concise report on Correspondence, a capital review in which he obtrudes but little of his personality. He regrets the absence of Canada's proceedings forgetting doubtless that our Annual Convocation was extended from July to January, making a long interval of eighteen months.

From his conclusion is extracted the following :

"There are forty-five Grand Chapters in the United States, four in Canada, three in Great Britain, and four in Australia—fifty-six in all. * * * * *

The growth in membership is over three per cent.; even greater than the year before, notwithstanding hard times. Adding at same ratio, there are doubtless at this date (November, 1896), about 213,000 Royal Arch Masons in good standing in the 2,671 Chapters in the United States and Canada—a great army of men, within whose minds and hearts have been

implanted the most important and serious truths, and whose lives should be a living epistle known and read of all men as champions of all that is right, noble and true, and as believers in and worshippers of the one ever living and true God—Jehovah, the Great I Am.”

W. G. Ten Brook, Duluth, Grand High Priest;
Thomas Montgomery, St. Paul, Grand Secretary.

Mississippi.

Chapters, 43 ; members, 1,329.

M. E. Comp. Wm. Starling, Grand High Priest, presided over the Forty-seventh Annual Convocation held in the City of West Point, on February 13th, 1895 ; all the Grand officers but one and representatives of thirty-four Chapters answering to the roll-call.

The printed proceedings contain not only an excellent portrait of the late Comp. Robert B. Brannin, Grand Lecturer, but many beautiful tributes to the memory of one who had endeared himself to all classes. The Grand High Priest, while permitting others to record his services in the various Masonic bodies, devotes in his address a page of eloquent eulogy to a Companion whose worth was recognized and appreciated.

“He made no pretentions ; he strove with nobody for laurels ; he had no private ends to gain, no enmities to gratify. He was as fitted to enter the kingdom of heaven as a little child.”

He issued a number of dispensations, and among others the following unique application was declined :

“On the 20th of September a communication was addressed to me by Biloxi Chapter, U.D., reciting a fact which I had already learned by report, that the Grand Master had conferred the three degrees in Ancient Craft Masonry on Captain George Maddrell, of the British steamer ‘County of York,’ then lying in port at Ship Island ; and informing me that Bro. Maddrell would be an applicant for admission to the Chapter ; and asking whether I would grant a dispensation for this purpose.”

He announced that he had accepted the resignation

of Comp. H. Robertson as Grand Representative of Mississippi near the Grand Chapter of Canada, and had appointed Comp. J. A. Morton in his place.

In the Grand Secretary's report is the following incomprehensible clause :

" June 4—Notified the Grand Chapters of Canada, Massachusetts and South Dakota of the non-affiliation of their representatives by suspension for non-payment of dues, and suggested suitable successors."

A brief review of Canada is included in Comp. Savery's report on Correspondence, which is quite up to his standard and contains lots of good things. He agrees with the necessity for physical perfection and cites the Sacred Writings.

" In ye olden times, when the Levitical priesthood were appointed, one must be without blemish to minister to the Tabernacle, or the temple. No matter what their mental or moral qualification, they must be sound in all their limbs and without blemish, *vide* Lev. 16-17. Is this not a lesson taught us in Masonry not to deviate from old landmarks ?"

He is not inclined to the introduction of the General Grand's Ritual, and says :

" This everlasting tinkering with Ritual is a curse, instead of a blessing to the Fraternity. We wish the Ritual was like unto the laws of the Medes and Persians, unchangeable."

Gus. J. Bahin, Natchez, Grand High Priest ; J. L. Power, Jackson, Grand Secretary.

1896.

Three of the Grand officers failed to respond at the Annual Convocation held at Jacksonville, February 19th, but the Chapters represented had increased in number. Grand High Priest Bahin's address contained little that would be of interest outside his own jurisdiction.

Mississippi has decreed that where a Chapter fails to report for two years its charter is arrested.

The Grand Secretary reports that there are indications that some of those so dealt with may revive, but adds that "the difficulty of getting a quorum of the old members to join in a petition is a serious obstaele in most cases."

What else can be expected from such summary treatment? A judicious system of visitation would do much to counteract the apathetic condition into which Chapters occasionally drop. To wipe them out altogether, after the manner of Minnesota with its non-paying members, is apt to develop that apathy into utter indifference or perhaps disgust. We have known Chapters that were somnolent for years suddenly wake up to progressive activity through the infusion of a little new blood, or the encouraging efforts of visiting Grand officers. To kill a Chapter outright and then look for the remains to get up and resume business at the old stand, is expecting just a little too much.

The Committee on Necrology in paying tribute to the memory of Past Grand High Priest W. D. Ferris recalls an incident of his term which it may not be inopportune to quote here :

"During his term as Grand High Priest he was called to decide as to the form of prayer to be used in opening and closing Chapters, and said :

'Every Companion has the right to pray in Chapter according to the dictates of his conscience. While deciding this I would advise every Companion to take heed, lest by any means this liberty become a stumbling block to them that are weak.
* * * * I think it more consistent with Masonic charity to use such modes of expression, so that neither the Jewish nor the Christian conscience may be wounded.'

Companion Savery submits his sixteenth report on Correspondence and reviews with care the proceedings of forty-three American Grand Chapters and those of foreign jurisdictions. He gives a page of quotations from the address of Canada's Grand Z for 1895 without comment, and of Comp. Henry Robertson's retirement he says :

"We sincerely regret the declension of further service by Comp. Robertson, one of the best of all Correspondents. His reports were always instructive as well as entertaining and were

regarded 'Standard,' yet from the specimen before us we are confident there will be wages accorded the new Correspondent, on delivery. Mississippi for 1894 has a cosy seat at his round table."

On the "pay roll" system which hangs like a mill-stone to the neck of many of our sister Grand Chapters, he says under Kentucky :

"His remarks on retrenchment, especially in mileage and per diem, are peculiarly applicable to Mississippi. A resolution to abolish mileage and per diem of members would create as much disturbance as a bomb-shell exploding in the hall of the Grand Chapter. If made a special order, the time stated for its consideration would find every member in his seat, and they would promptly respond to roll-call.

We have always favored the adoption of a regulation abolishing the mileage and per diem awarded to delegates and reducing dues to Grand Chapter to one-half of present amount, in which case the Subordinate Chapter should pay the actual expenses of their delegates. This would give the Grand Chapter of Mississippi a nice little surplus to apply to a Masonic Home."

Here's a nice little anecdote—all his own, too—with which its advocates can assist to bolster up the Past Master's degree :

"I well remember an incident in my own Masonic life in the matter of conferring degree of Actual Past Master. Three worthy actual Past Masters had assembled to confer the degree upon the newly elected W. M., but neither of the Actuals could give the O. B. or anything that had the similitude to it. A virtual P. M. and in possession of the O. B. was present, so it was arranged that the Actuals with their candidate were to go into the ante-room and the V. P. M. to stand outside the door and repeat the O. B. in the hearing of one of the Actuals, who repeated it after him, and in that manner the O. B. was conferred upon the candidate.

We are of the opinion that the conferring of that Past Master's degree made a deeper and more lasting impression on the virtuals outside the door than it did on the candidate, and as there was no Past Master's lodge opened or closed in the matter I have always had doubts as to its legality. It was a massive farce of which Masons of every degree ought to be ashamed. I was thirty years younger then than now, and I have assisted in conferring many degrees since both on Actual and Virtual Masters, but it seems to me strangely out of place."

Out of place? Oh no. The possibilities afforded by the P. M. are innumerable and embrace anything

from a funereal lament to a vaudeville song and dance. The degree is the most elastic thing on record, and its removal would be regarded as a calamity—by some.

Comp. Drummond criticizes their methods of election, saying "it must be a terribly slow one." Comp. Savery proceeds to explain:

"We think the Companion does not fully understand our method, so we give it here. The presiding officer announces nominations are in order for Grand Secretary or any other elective officer.

Some Companion nominates our present Grand Secretary, J. L. Power; the presiding officer announces J. L. Power is in nomination for Grand Secretary—are there any other nominations? If not, one ballot will elect. A member moves that some Companion (naming him) cast one ballot for the Grand Chapter for Comp. Power; the presiding officer puts the motion, and if carried in the affirmative the ballot is so cast, unless *objection is made.*"

It is presumed that "legality" is secured by the depositing of that one ballot. Such a formality is very like straining at a gnat and swallowing a camel. A solitary nomination with the nominee's consent, is an election by acclamation the world over. To go through the process of casting one ballot on a motion by somebody, is certainly not a violation of the law, but it is, as Comp. Drummond remarks, "terribly slow."

Under West Virginia he says: We tried to find something that he and the writer agree upon, but up to date have failed to note it."

We would scorn to be hypercritical or pugnacious, nor are we particularly "stuck on ourselves" as a reviewer, but we confess to a keen appetite for opinions the reverse of what we ourselves entertain, and feel generally disposed to welcome them because of the variety and spice they afford. Were we all of one mind on the many features for discussion which these proceedings present, what a delightfully tranquil and miserably uninteresting family we would be.

"Where order in variety we see,
And where, though all things differ, all agree."

James T. Harrison, Columbus, Grand High Priest;
J. L. Power, Jackson, Grand Secretary.

Missouri.

Chapters, 95 ; members, 6,485.

In the city of St. Louis and on the morning of Thursday, April 25th, 1895, the Forty-eighth Annual Convocation assembled in Freemasons' Hall. All the Grand Officers, eighteen Past Grand High Priests, and representatives from all but a dozen Chapters were in attendance.

The Grand High Priest, M. E. Comp. C. H. Briggs, introduced his address with brief references to the years "departed:"

"They served their generation by the will of God, fell on sleep and were gathered to their fathers. God buries his workmen, but carries on his work."

Having referred to the holding of five State Chapters of Instruction, he urges the appointment of a permanent Grand Lecturer. A couple of questions were submitted to him, which, with his replies, he deemed of sufficient interest to embody in his address:

"A brother who had received the M. M. and P. M. degrees had the misfortune to shoot himself through his left wrist, which necessitated the amputation of the hand. Was he eligible to receive the M. E. M. and R. A. degrees?"

My answer was:

A brother who having been regularly elected to receive the Chapter degrees has been advanced to the degree of Mark Master, and inducted into the Oriental Chair, does not forfeit his right to be received and acknowledged Most Excellent Master, and to be exalted to the most sublime degree of Royal Arch, merely because he has been so unfortunate as to lose his left hand.

A brother, now sixty-five years of age, about three years ago was elected to receive the Chapter degrees, but never presented himself for advancement. Ill health and financial reverses had discouraged him and he asked the Chapter to return him the fees. A motion was made in the Chapter to donate the fees. Some held that the motion was out of order, and the matter was referred to me. I answered that while the fees were legally the property of the Chapter, yet the motion was in order, and it seemed to me a proper action for the Chapter to return the money and withhold the degrees."

He divided the jurisdiction into nine districts in compliance with a resolution adopted the year previously and assigned to each an officer.

“That resolution requires each officer to visit every Chapter in his district at least once each year. But as no provision was made to defray the necessary expenses of such visitation, the by-law was practically inoperative, hence I have not called upon these officers for reports of visits which I could not expect them to make.”

M. E. Comp. Bester G. Brown, of Kansas, was a visitor who was cordially welcomed.

The report of the Masonic Home Committee showed that there were in that institution seventy-nine inmates, thirty-seven girls, twenty-three boys, thirteen women, and six old brothers. The applications of six children and one widow were granted, but they had not yet arrived.

For the proposed Hospital department or Sanatorium in connection with the Home, the Chapters were appealed to, and the committee reported that the response aggregated nearly two thousand dollars.

The Committee on the Grand High Priest's address recommended the repeal of the resolution dividing the State into districts.

The recommendation providing for the appointment of a Grand Lecturer was not favorably entertained by the Finance Committee, the financial conditions of Grand Chapter not warranting an appropriation for such a purpose. The “pay roll” appropriation recommended, amounted to \$2,465.

Two amendments to by-laws submitted and adopted read:

“No petition for degrees shall be received in a Chapter from one who is not at the time an affiliated Master Mason, and, if after having become a member of the Chapter, he shall become a non-affiliated Mason, and voluntarily remain so for a period of twelve months, he shall forfeit his good standing, and all rights and privileges in the Order, which shall not be restored, except by affiliation with a regular lodge.”

“No Royal Arch Mason, who shall have voluntarily remained non-affiliated for more than twelve months, shall be permitted to visit any Chapter in this jurisdiction, nor shall he

appear in any procession of Royal Arch Masons, nor shall he be entitled to receive Masonic relief."

A biographical sketch of the Grand High Priest, who is a minister of the Methodist Episcopal Church, describes him thus :

" Bro. Briggs stands six feet high, weighs over two hundred pounds, and is as straight as an Indian. He is a man that would be singled out or observed closely in any promiscuous assemblage; and when he arises to address any audience, whether in church or a Masonic hall, he commands respectful attention at once." * * * *

He wields the gavel, shapes legislation and dispatches business in a State Grand Body with as much ease and grace as though it were merely a small out-of-way Subordinate Body.

His extensive experience, well-balanced mind, and broad, liberal, conservative views, qualify him to grace any position to which his brethren may advance him, either in church or Freemasonry."

A fine portrait of Comp. Briggs forms the frontispiece to the volume. There is also a portrait and biography of the late M. E. Comp. James W. S. Mitchell who was Grand High Priest in 1846.

An able review of all the United States and British North American Grand Chapters is furnished by that diligent and much quoted correspondent, Comp. W. H. Mayo, whom we failed to meet on our last year's journey. Canada for 1894, along with the other "foreigners," he relegates to the tail end of his report. Grand Z. Harding's remarks on the necessity for accuracy in the rendering of the work he says are "worthy of being written in letters of gold." "Sound," as usual. Missouri, we believe, was numbered among the majority in the recent November excitement,

He says our Grand Superintendents constitute a splendid corps of officers and reproduces without remark the resolution exiling the "Past Master."

Here is how he goes for Comp. Long of Indiana on the physical perfection theory :

" My, my, my ! How he doth 'mouth and rant!' 'Landmarks, customs and usages of the Craft!' Why, he ought to

know that 'literal conformity' is the veriest sham, of very, *very* recent invention, to *evade* a supposed landmark concerning 'physical perfection.' Under the 'literal conformity' theory a man may be dying with cancer or consumption and he passes, but let him lose a toe or finger and 'where, oh where is he?' Under this theory it has been decided that if one has lost his left eye, he is all 'right,' but if he has lost his right thumb he is 'left.'

Commenting on Minnesota's "removal" law for non-payment of dues, he facetiously but tritely remarks

"Would it not be well if all the Grand Chapters should unite in offering a premium, say ten thousand dollars, to the one who would get up a law on the subject of non-payment of dues that would be perfectly satisfactory to all Royal Arch Masons, and that would do no wrong to any one? Should this suggestion be adopted, we announce now that we will not be a competitor for the prize."

He is a strong supporter of the Past Master's degree, and, unlike many others who uphold it, constructs a very ornamental, if not solid, superstructure on the very legendary foundation. To Comp. Williams, of Ohio, he says:

"He has got the thing exactly backwards. It is a *Degree* in the Chapter; in the Lodge it is only a *Rank*. A Past Master in the Lodge is one who has served a term as Master, and needs no ceremony to make him such any more than does a Past High Priest or Past Commander. It is true that in *some* Jurisdictions a *side degree* (for it is not conferred in or by the Lodge) is conferred or communicated to one who has been elected Master, But it is an utter mis-nomer to call it the degree of 'Past' Master. It should (if given at all) be termed the degree of 'Present' Master, or 'Installed' Master, or 'Worshipful' Master, or, better yet, of 'About-to-be' Master. A Past Master, as such, has no official duties to perform, and needs no ceremony to make him 'rise above his fellows.' The Chapter has some object in conferring the degree. It is a legend (true or untrue, historically, makes no difference, as many legends are introduced for purely symbolic purposes) that anciently none but those who had been chosen rulers of the Craft and had proved their skill by acceptable service could be exalted to the most sublime degree of Royal Arch. This is finely illustrated in our ceremonies. The candidates must not only prove that they have been Overseers, Rulers of the Craft, but also that their services as such has been approved, and that therefore they have received the 'congratulatory title' of *Most Excellent* Masters.

In Masonry a candidate sometimes *represents* a distinguished personage, and the idea may be represented of his holding an

office—even the highest, and as in dramatic performances, a year or years of service may be briefly represented. A certain ceremony may represent a 'year of service,' or two or three years, and thus, in this degree, in the Chapter, a brief ceremony is made to 'represent a year of service' as Master. The inconsistency of the ceremony in the Lodge thus disappears entirely in the Chapter. It is (or is supposed to be) necessary for a Royal Arch Mason to be a Past Master and a Most Excellent Master, but certainly no reason can be given or conceived why a Master of a Lodge should first be (or have been) a Past Master."

To which we beg leave to add:

"Whatever sceptic, could inquire for,
For every why he had a wherefore."

Alvin Haynie, Clinton, Grand High Priest; Win.
H. Mayo, St. Louis, Grand Secretary.

1896.

Right royally did Missouri celebrate its semi-centennial, the report of which is incorporated with that of the Forty-ninth Annual Convocation. The whole is embraced in a magnificent souvenir volume, a credit to Grand Chapter and the competent committee to whom its compilation was entrusted.

The great event, the story of which is graphically narrated, came off at Springfield, and succeeded the Convocation, which was held on the forenoon and afternoon of the 23rd April. Nothing seems to have been omitted or forgotten. The Baldwin Theatre was engaged for the occasion, and at eight o'clock the celebration was inaugurated with an appropriate selection by the Masonic Quartette of Kansas City. M. E. Comp. Haynie, the retiring Grand High Priest, delivered the address of welcome, and Past Grand High Priest R. F. Stevenson, the historical address. "Charity," "The Evolution of Freemasonry" and "Farewell" were subjects dealt with by M. E. Comps. Givan, Rev. Dr. Woods and Rev. Dr. Miller, respectively. Addresses were also delivered by Grand High Priest Busser, of Kansas, and Grand Secretary Mayo.

Nor was the Eastern Star at all dim; Mrs. Genevieve F. Wyatt, Grand Matron, was present with over a score of her fair members, and in an exceedingly neat

address, presented the presiding officer with the great floral key-stone which was one of the prominent features of the occasion. Here is how she did it :

"BROTHER HAYNIE,—The relation which I occupy this time is unique, delicate, pleasant. Unique in that woman's will is never raised in the great cathedral of your illustrious Order ; delicate because the position is difficult of precise definition or interpretation ; pleasant because I come to bear to you the affection, esteem, confidence and approbation of those with whom you have been so intimately associated for one year as their supreme officer. I come to bring you not an abstract declaration, but a concrete demonstration of their faith, their hope and their love. I come to present you with a *Key-Stone* not carved from crumbling marble, or tarnishing brass, or even from lustrous gold, but one formed out of earth's eternal bloom and flower, those pure symbols of purity, joy and love. As you look upon it, as it stands there, think not of it as that which withers, decays and fades away, but rather as a perennial fountain, out of which issues the eternal Key-Stone of God, which is infinite, tenderest love—that Key-Stone which cements mankind into universal brotherhood and confiding fraternity. Let it be to you not only spotless flower and perfect bud of immaculate purity and enchanting perfume, but an appropriate, expressive and impressive symbol of your brothers' affection, esteem and love, which have as their hiding place the secret recesses of pure, loyal and devoted hearts—recesses where thieves do not enter, and where time adds to their splendor.

Permit me, in behalf of your Companions of the Grand Royal Arch Chapter of Missouri to present to you this fragrant, beautiful, grand and imposing symbol of their trust, of their confidence, of their affection, and of their love."

This is how the chronicler describes the condition of the happy chairman :

"M. E. Comp. Haynie was completely nonplussed. It was a veritable knock-out, for it was some time before he could control his emotions sufficiently to even thank the fair speaker, which he finally did in a very neat little speech."

A most impressive musical programme was furnished and a bronze medal, commemorative of the event was presented to all present. The active committee's conclusion will indicate not only their labors, but will also explain the nature of the compilation which records them :

“ In compiling this report we have endeavored to present all the features of the event—the Invitation Card, the Floral Key-Stone, the Souvenir, the addresses in full, the letters of fraternal greeting, and a complete roster of those in attendance ; and as a fitting ending to enclose the portraits and sketches of those actively engaged in the making of this history, the Grand High Priests from the organization in 1816 to the present. We therefore present the full report of the Fiftieth Anniversary of the Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of Missouri, mindful that, in whatever your committee may have erred, there is much in the record of the first semi-centennial to stimulate the Companions of our Grand Jurisdiction to that zeal and fidelity, that when other hands shall pen the record of the second semi-centennial, its history may be the crowning of the century.”

Grand High Priest Haynie's address to the Grand Chapter was a thoughtful and well prepared paper and stamped him as a worthy successor to the long line of distinguished rulers whose portraits grace the handsome volume :

“ It is under peculiar and felicitous circumstances that we meet to-day in this beautiful city, the ‘ Queen of the Ozarks,’ and receive and enjoy the hospitality and friendship of its generous people. This is the semi-centennial anniversary of the organization of this Grand Chapter. When we look back over the long and tedious journey through which this Body has come, and compare the condition of the Royal Craft of this jurisdiction, with its ninety-five stalwart Chapters, at this time with its condition at the time of its organization, how should our hearts burn with gratitude to our fathers who laid this foundation for us.”

Among his decisions the following is noted :

“ A Companion has a dimit from both Blue Lodge and Chapter. He petitioned a lodge for membership and was rejected. Can he apply to the Chapter for membership ?

Answer : If the Companion became and voluntarily remained a non-affiliate Master Mason for a period of twelve months, he thereby lost his good standing and all rights and privileges in the Order and cannot petition a Chapter for membership, until he becomes a member of a Lodge. If before his dimit from the Blue Lodge became a year old he applied for membership in a lodge and was rejected, his good standing shall continue for twelve months after such rejection, during which twelve months he may petition a Chapter for membership but not afterwards, unless he shall in the meantime have petitioned the lodge as before.”

His visitations were frequent, and he presided at several Chapters of Instruction. Through these means he discovered that in the matter of ritual the country Chapters were much inferior to those of the cities and attributed the cause to the absence of a Grand Lecturer in the field :

“ During the year I have had opportunity of comparing our Ritual with several others, and am of the opinion that ours is better and far superior to any that I have seen. Being so, it is all the more essential that it be properly conferred. It is impossible to exemplify the work if it is not known to the officers and members. How shall they know it if they are not taught, and how shall they be taught without a teacher? It has now been six years since we had a Grand Lecturer in the field.”

He expressed a just pride in that noble institution the Masonic Home, which the report showed was in an excellent condition.

Noticing that some of the Chapters had exempted certain Companions from the payment of dues, he calls attention to the absence of any law governing the subject :

“ It is always a mark of distinction to any body of Masons to see the grey heads adorning the room and indicates to me that the foundations are well laid, and that the love for the institution is strong when the elders yet delight in our ceremonies. It is a sad commentary on human wisdom to remark that many of these old companions have but little of this world's goods. They should be exempt from payment of dues, not as charity, but as a matter of right. As it is, the Chapters may remit such dues, but that is very likely an act of charity, which they should not be compelled to ask from an institution for which they have so long and so faithfully wrought. Rough and rugged has been their road, long and toilsome their march, but sustained and favored by the great I Am, they are at least near their journey's end. We should make their path smoother and their day brighter by this act of courtesy and justice.”

The issue to the Chapter of an anonymous circular reflecting upon the conduct of the Grand Secretary's office and presumably replete with inuendo, induced the Grand High Priest to inaugurate an investigation in the interests of the Grand Secretary as well as of the Grand Chapter. The result of his labours in conjunction with

those whom he called in to assist him, utterly and completely exploded the insinuations of the mischievous correspondent.

What a pity the identity of the fellow could not be determined. The viperish instinct that prompted the action must have been gratified at the notice taken of it, and yet the Grand High Priest's position was a delicate one. The consciousness of his own rectitude however, could hardly make up for the humiliation suffered by the officer most interested, and nothing should be left undone to discover the miscreant whose foul action occasioned it, and punish him with such punishment as so heinous an offence deserves.

The committee on the Grand High Priest's address reported in this connection as follows :

"As to that part of the address of the M. E. Grand High Priest referring to the anonymous attack on the financial management of our Grand Secretary, we commend the promptness of the Grand High Priest in making an investigation, and are glad to know that he feels authorized to report the charges made in such attack are groundless, and that in his judgment our Grand Secretary has faithfully accounted for all moneys passing through his hand.

We cannot too strongly condemn the attempt to blacken the character of a Mason by issuing and circulating anonymous circulars, and we are satisfied with the result of the investigation made and caused to be made by the Grand High Priest."

The ladies of the Eastern Star who had been invited were announced and Grand Chapter was called from labor to "refreshment."

"When about twenty-five lady members of the order of Eastern Star were escorted into the Hall and introduced by Comp. Hanson, Sister Genevieve F. Wyatt, Grand Matron, Order of Eastern Star of this State, addressed the Grand Chapter at considerable length in a very fraternal manner. Grand High Priest Haynie replied in a few well chosen words, and then called upon Comp. Kunn, 'the ladies' man' of the Grand Chapter, who delivered a very appropriate address to the occasion, filled with sparkling gems and well rounded rhetorical sentences. Comp. Judge Givan also addressed the audience in his usual judicious and judicial manner.

The ladies then retired from the Hall, the members of the Grand Chapter all arising to their feet, while the best of fraternal spirit seemed to pervade the entire audience.

The Grand Chapter then resumed labor."

After this North Dakota can get up a quadrille party as an adjunct to the installation ceremony and we won't have a word to say against it.

The "pay roll" on this occasion footed up to the respectable total of \$2458.95. The sum of \$500 was appropriated to the Masonic Home.

The recommendation of the Grand High Priest regarding aged Companions brought out the following report which was discussed and postponed to next annual convocation.

"Section 100 of the By-laws be amended by adding: 'That all Royal Arch Masons who shall have arrived at the age of sixty years, and shall have been Royal Arch Masons in good standing continuously for at least twenty years, upon their own application, or that of a Companion, shall be exempt from the payment of dues; (2) and every subordinate Chapter shall be exempt from paying Grand Chapter dues on all Companions so exempt under the provisions of this By-law; (3) that all provisions of these By-laws inconsistent herewith are hereby repealed."

The following was adopted:

"*Resolved*, That, beginning with this session, the outgoing Grand High Priest shall receive a Past Grand High Priest's jewel. The expense shall not exceed one hundred dollars, which shall be paid from the treasury of the Grand Chapter."

Comp. W. H. Mayo presented his seventeenth annual report on Correspondence embracing one hundred and twenty-five pp. of most interesting culls and comment. To the Colorado ruler who deplored the inevitable climber to-the Shrine he says:

"Right you are, Companion, 'strength of character' and not numbers are what Capitular Masonry wants. An experience of over twenty-five years has taught us that one good, active worker who seeks and gets all the light attainable is better than a half-dozen luke-warm Companions who only attend on election night or when a banquet is to be given."

He generously devotes five pages to Canada for 1895, quoting freely of M. E. Comp. J. Ross Robertson's address:

"The address of the Grand Z is one of those rare intellectual productions so filled with brilliant passages, flights of eloquence, and common sense, that it is with great difficulty we can select such passages as seem of most interest to our readers."

* * * *

"The paragraph on the formation of new Chapters contains words of wisdom that many in authority would do well to read carefully and ponder over, before using their prerogative to bring into existence a new member of the family which will fade and die as the flowers before the autumn frosts."

* * * *

"His views of the so-called higher degrees as compared with the Royal Arch may be read with much pleasure and profit not only by all R. A. Masons, but those desiring to bear that proud title.

The report on Correspondence is from the pen of Comp. Geo. J. Bennett, and if, as he says, it is his 'first offence,' he certainly was an apt pupil under the first-class preceptorship of Henry Robertson. We welcome him to the guild, and but from the fact that we have exhausted our space in quotations from Comp. Robertson's address, we would entertain our readers with a few of his ideas expressed in his review of the several Grand Chapters of the United States.

We cannot leave this jurisdiction without quoting in full the valedictory of Comp. Henry Robertson, whose Masonic reviews for over a quarter of a century have been the means of disseminating the true light and knowledge of the Royal Craft, not only to his Canadian brethren, but to his American cousins, who with great regret have learned of his retirement from the corps reportorial."

We have exceeded our limit in this review of Missouri, but in view of the important event which marks the year, and the fact that Canada contemplates a little celebration of a similar, if not so elaborate, nature, the Companions will doubtless overlook the extravagance.

Isaac M. Abraham, Harrisonville, Grand High Priest ; Wm. H. Mayo, St. Louis, Grand Secretary.

Montana.

Chapters 12 ; members 663.

The twelve Chapters which go to make up this Grand Chapter were all represented at the Annual Convocation at Helena, on October 7th, 1895. The list of Grand officers was completed with six "pro. tems," and

M. E. Comp. Isaac (Ike) W. Baker, Grand High Priest, welcomed the Companions in an address which presents some interesting features.

“ In rendering an account of our Stewardship, we can report that there has been nothing submitted for a decision, of importance, neither has there been a dispensation asked for, to waive the usual time to confer degrees, etc., for which I am very thankful, as it gives us the assurance that the Chapters are officered with Companions worthy of their trust.”

To those of similar exalted station who have been prolific in this regard, the occasion of Comp. Baker's gratitude will come as a gentle admonition.

Two gaps by death are recorded. Montana's first Grand High Priest, M. E. Comp. R. O. Hickman, died in July previous at Chicago from the effects of an accident and after much suffering, and Comp. Herbert P. Rolfe, G. M. of the Third Veil, who died in March and who was also one of the pioneers of the Grand Chapter.

He regrets that the Craft has not been as prosperous as could be desired, but the outlook is very promising.

“ We may reasonably expect at no distant future an abounding prosperity, and with it there will surely be a Masonic revival. Our silver mines, now idle under the ban of an unfriendly and, as we think, unwise legislation, with a restoration of the white metal to its rightful rank as a money metal, would pour forth streams of wealth to give a silver lining to all our clouds of industrial depression.”

Alack-a-day! the “ no distant future ” failed to see that reasonable expectation reach fruition.

“ Blessed is he who expects nothing for he shall never be disappointed.”

In October previous he constituted Zona Chapter at Bozeman.

“ After which we were invited to a banquet provided by the members of the Eastern Star, (may their star ever shine with

refulgent splendor.) The menu was not only abundant and satisfying, but a feast of reason and flow of soul followed."

It may be observed here that the Grand Secretary accompanied his chief and of course shared in the "abundant and satisfactory menu." In his Correspondence report he expresses regret that the Canadian reviewer is prejudiced against the Order of the Eastern Star. Well, we have nothing to forgive, but if we had we'd forgive just the same. Under similar circumstances the star would shine with us ahead of anything else less hospitable. In this case its generous rays beamed just at the proper time, at least there is no record that it shared in the previous ceremony.

In March a dispensation was granted to a number of Companions at Kalispell, but having heard nothing from them, the Grand High Priest was unable to say whether they intended to apply for a charter.

It appears however from the proceedings later on, that they were heard from, for the Committee on Chapters U. D. reported that :

"In view of the circumstances and conditions of this case as presented, your committee recommend that Kalispell Chapter be continued Under Dispensation until they furnish a more satisfactory specimen of their work."

The Committee then gave a resume of the irregularities, gathered from "improperly kept" minutes and which certainly justified their recommendation. Notwithstanding this, the Grand Secretary—think of it—unsuccessfully moved the issue of a charter; the report was sustained, and an amendment making it the duty of the Grand Secretary to instruct the Committee was further adopted.

His visitations were few :

"The performance of a duty which I owe my family, compelled me to forego the pleasure."

Unquestionably, duty to family comes first. It's odd though that this did not strike him before. The

Most Excellent Ike will "return to his own country with the satisfaction of having performed his duty"—to his family.

At last Convocation a committee was appointed to "investigate" and that committee reported :

"I caused the Chapters to be notified of the substance and purport of their report, which was to entirely exonerate our Companion in every matter that was the subject of injurious reports.

Now, Companions, having received many favors from you, I desire to ask one other, viz., that nothing pertaining to this business be published. I ask this because some of the writers of Foreign Correspondence are already commenting and wondering why this committee was appointed, and even guessing so near the truth, that the situation to me is very uncomfortable."

What dark, blood-curdling horror is concealed behind all this? Can it be possible that another triple quintette is impiously machinating and that the treasured secrets of the Eastern Star are imperilled? Let us hope that the Grand High Priest's search party, when they discover the miscreants, will be as prompt as their fellows of old were with the three jays.

The sum of two hundred dollars was appropriated to purchase distinguishing jewels for the officers of Grand Chapter, and it was decided that the Mark and P. M. degrees should be exemplified at the next Convocation. The officers were installed, and Comp. Neill announced a "modest lunch in the adjoining room." Unfortunately the Eastern Star was not twinkling about this time, otherwise it would have been "an abundant and satisfactory banquet."

Comp. Hedges reviews other Grand Chapters and contributes as usual a report that compels perusal. His keen regret for our lack of reverence towards feminine mystery is nothing compared to the scorn with which he regards the average correspondent's most useful ally, the scissors. His report, therefore, possesses the charm of unbroken originality, and thereby secures the admiration of type sticker and proof reader alike.

He has had Canada under his eagle eye for two years :

"It is a jurisdiction of very large area, including Prince Edward Island at the east and British Columbia on the west, besides reaching over into Australia."

The acquisitiveness which is said to be characteristic of the Briton where territory is concerned, must have been in Comp. Hedges' mind just then. True, our area is large, but the earth and the fullness thereof is not yet quite absorbed by Canada. We did reach over into Australia, not to grasp, but to help, and the hand then outstretched is at liberty to reach over the other way even to "Prince Edward's Island," if similar necessity appeals. Our good Companion's independence of the scissors has led him to confuse one of our home districts, yclept, Prince Edward, with the island province on the Atlantic.

He is opposed to cheapening the degrees and thinks a due appreciation will be lessened thereby. He has a good word for the reviewer, but says :

"Comp. Harry Robertson does the Correspondence on so small a compensation that it does not justify him in much original work. He gives some choice selection and occasionally drops in a comment."

Noting the visits to the Chapters of M. E. Comp. J. Ross Robertson, he says :

"His information as to their condition was not second-hand. When he found decay and death he did not shrink from calling attention to it.

* * * *

The Canadian organization does not include the Past Master's degree, holding that as properly belonging to the Grand Lodge, and we think with good reason."

A kindly welcome he gives to the correspondent of 1895 :

"After twenty-seven years of service as Chairman of the Correspondence Committee, Comp. Henry Robertson delivers his valedictory, and introduces as his successor Comp. George J. Bennett, who proves himself all that his voucher has predicted of him. We are, indeed, sorry to part with Comp. Robertson, but we like his successor well. He has views of his own and a

forcible style which we admire. Sorry to see that he is prejudiced against the Order of the Eastern Star. If he knew more of it he would not ridicule it. It may not be Ancient Craft Masonry, but it is proving itself a valuable co-efficient in higher walks of Masonic benevolence and good works.

Our new Companion of the quill or faber has apparently heard enough of Fort Riley, but those who were there will not cease to remember it pleasantly. Farewell Henry; welcome George."

Joseph J. Hindson, Helena, Grand High Priest;
Cornelius Hedges, Helena, Grand Secretary.

1896.

Deer Lodge Chapter in the city of Butte entertained the Seventh Annual Convocation of Grand Chapter on the 15th September.

The number of "pro tems" among the Grand Officers was up to the previous years' average.

Grand High Priest J. J. Hindson in his address expressed hope for the future that was destined to be "deferred:"

"The year just past has not been one calculated to further the interests of Capitular Masonry in this jurisdiction. The continued low price of silver and all our other products, together with the uncertainty of a Presidential campaign, have probably deterred many a worthy Brother from knocking at the doors of our Chapter rooms, but let us hope that next November will so decide matters that neither we nor our children will ever be called upon to bear the anxieties and witness the misery and sorrow that has been sown broadcast over the greatest and grandest nation on earth, since those in authority, in their mad greed for gold, commenced to overthrow laws that were framed by men wiser and more patriotic than they."

How similar the following to what one peruses so frequently, and it's true, every word of it:

"I am a firm believer in the advantages that accrue from frequent visitations of Grand Chapter officers to Subordinate Chapters, and although a delinquent myself in this respect, I would urge those who come after me to exert themselves in this particular, assuring them that although they may impart some information, they themselves will gain a fund of experience that will repay them for the trouble."

He observes that Companions become negligent and fall away, and as an inducement to exertion, suggests that the inducement of honorary membership after twenty-five years' service be held out.

"Times of prosperous peace do not fill the pages of a nation's history like those of devastating wars, but they are infinitely more desirable, so we congratulate ourselves and you that there is so little to relate that requires your attention and action."

A dispensation was granted to the Companions at Miles City for a new Chapter and with that at Kalispell was granted a charter.

A digest of decisions and resolutions was ordered to be prepared and published.

Chapters on the roll now number 14; membership, 723.

A Council of anointed High Priests was duly organized and a number of aspirants admitted.

Grand Secretary Hedges again furnishes the Correspondence report and in his labours was assisted by Comp. E. C. Day who does ample justice to the selection.

Under Michigan the latter says:

"We notice that Comp. Greene has run foul of the query as to the right of visitation between Canada, which has no Past Master's Degree, and Michigan, and decides that the right does not exist, which would seem to be the correct ruling. Then why do we exchange representatives with and recognize bodies between whom the right of visitation does not exist? If we are going to have trouble with our neighbors over this useless, not to say meaningless, degree, it would be well to abolish it."

And Canada is to be placed without the pale because she puts away a thing that is "useless, not to say meaningless." You are well named, Companion, if your words illuminate as they ought some of the dark places.

"He that has light within his own clear breast
May sit in the centre and enjoy bright day."

Richard H. Wearing, Butte City, Grand High Priest; Cornelius Hedges, Helena, Grand Secretary.

Nebraska.

Chapters, 52 ; Members, 3,042.

A neat volume in arrangement and typography, the printed proceedings of Nebraska is always welcome, though why it could not be turned out equally as neat in Omaha as well as Chicago is a matter of speculation to inquisitive outsiders.

The Twenty-ninth Annual Convocation was held at Omaha on Wednesday, December 11th, 1895. M. E. Comp. Frank E. Bullard delivered an address that kept close to the business line throughout. There is a moral in this :

“ Notwithstanding the fact that our revenue is not materially less than in the preceding year, an examination of the tabulated returns will show that many of our Chapters are dormant. Some of them have had no work for a number of years, and are struggling to maintain their existence. I have hoped that the pressure of the times would so far relax as to give them encouragement, but so far the outlook is not hopeful. It is evident that Chapters have been established where the real interest of the Craft would have been better subserved had the application for dispensation and for charter been denied. Weak subordinates do not add material strength to the Grand Chapter, and while I concede it to be possible for a few earnest and devoted Companions to maintain a weak Chapter in a creditable manner, history and experience tell a different story.”

He was advised that the High Priest of a Chapter could not qualify for installation. Thereupon he issued a dispensation for a new election, and another Companion was chosen who was duly installed in the face of the protest of the original selection. Harmony is now an absentee from that Chapter, and to such an altitude has the trouble grown, that a special Committee of Grand Chapter was appointed to investigate and bring the offenders to trial and punishment.

Among his decisions was one which apparently was in line with the existing law :

“ That no Royal Arch Mason shall be admitted as a member or visitor until he shall have regularly received the preceding degrees.”

Later on, however, we find a probable motive for it. It also furnishes evidence of the advancing sentiment against the Past Master's degree as a pre-requisite :

"Comp. Young offered the following resolution ; consideration was postponed until our next annual convocation :

Resolved, That our representatives in General Grand Chapter be requested to endeavor to have that Body omit from their repertory the Past Master's degree."

The Grand High Priest, in compliance with a request from his Grand Secretary directed that a full set of bound proceedings be sent to the Grand Lodge of Manitoba, owing to the library of the latter having been consumed by fire. Five dollars he also recommended to be forwarded to the Masonic Collectors' Association.

The Grand High Priest says in conclusion as many others say under similar conditions, that he surrenders "the gavel." This, of course, may only be a figure of speech or it may not, we do not know, but it is repeated so frequently that the mental picture of a Companion garbed in gold, purple and fine linen, with breast plate, mitre and other appointments, of the high sacerdotal office, presents a serious incongruity if accompanied by an instrument which, Masonically speaking, is an emblem of labor. The gavel as the symbol of authority is in its rightful place when in the hands of a Master or Grand Master of Masons. In Canada the First Principal of a Chapter represents Zerubbabel, or the regal office and his emblem is the sceptre. The idea has been suggested elsewhere that a baton typifying "the rod" that distinguished the first High Priest under Moses, might, without doing violence to precedent, be appropriately used by him who undertakes the sacred office in a Chapter.

We are glad to note that Comp. Charles J. Phelps who deftly uses the reportorial pencil was elevated to the exalted position of Grand High Priest—a clear gain for Nebraska. Congratulations to both. His review of forty-nine Grand Chapters is quite up to his customary high water mark. Of Canada and its ruler he speaks in praise.

"An excellent condition of the Craft is shown, as indeed there should be under so wise an administration as Companion Robertson is giving our Canadian Companions."

And reproduces in full the introduction to M. E. Comp. J. Ross Robertson's address as also our own salutatory which he prefaces by saying, "we like his style but think him altogether too modest." Alas, Companion, early impressions are sometimes rudely dispelled on acquaintance.

Under Nova Scotia he deprecates Masonic outdoor parades, and as he touches a sympathetic chord, we at once make room for his opportune remarks:

"When we run across an account of one of these grand (?) Masonic parades, the picture of the grand procession of the Scald Miserable Masons, which occurred in London in 1742, as portrayed in accounts preserved and a celebrated print thereof, arises in our mind, and we wonder why misguided members of our fraternity will still persist in making a 'holy show' of themselves in grand procession. Of course it is all right for the Blue Lodge, on strictly Masonic occasions—the laying of a corner stone by the Grand Master, or the burial of a deceased brother, to appear in lodge clothing and with the necessary lodge furniture, and for Knights Templar doing escort duty on all proper occasions, but aside from such occasions there can be no reasonable excuse for grand 'Masonic parades.' Certainly there is no excuse, for the exhibition on any occasion, of the clothing, regalia and emblems of the Royal Arch Chapter."

Pennsylvania's opposition to the Past Master's degree in the Chapters meets with his approval:

"Pennsylvania never had it in her system of Chapter degrees, and urges with reason and force that it has no place in Capitular Masonry. He compiles opinion on the question and his presentation of it is worthy the consideration of Royal Arch Masons. We think he is right in his contention."

Chas. J. Phelps, Schuyler, Grand High Priest; W. R. Bowen, Omaha, Grand Secretary.

Nevada.

Chapters, 8 ; members, 287.

The records of the proceedings of the Annual Conventions are before us. The Twenty-first held on the 11th and 12th June, 1894, assembled in Virginia City. All the Grand officers and Chapter representatives being in attendance. M. E. Comp. J. W. Eckley, Grand High Priest, briefly addressed the Companions, deploring the hard times but hoping for brighter days. As an evidence of the prevailing tranquility he had not been called upon to give an opinion or render a decision. In closing, he commends the financial condition of Grand Chapter to the serious consideration of the Companions.

The Grand Treasurer's statement showed receipts \$392.07, and disbursements \$358.35.

To meet the difficulty, the Finance Committee recommended that the Grand Secretary's stipend be reduced to \$150, that the printing of proceedings be dispensed with for a period, as also the services of the Correspondence Committee, and that an assessment of fifty cents, to be paid within ninety days, be levied on each Companion. This was adopted.

The Committee on Work recommended adherence to the California ritual in preference to that of the General Grand Chapter.

The Convention of High Priests donated \$47 to Grand Chapter, which was received with thanks, and no doubt faithfully applied.

Rufus H. Kinney, Reno, Grand High Priest ; C. N. Noteware, Carson City, Grand Secretary.

1895.

Reno saw the Twenty-second Convocation on the 10th and 11th June. Why two days are necessary to accomplish the business of the Grand Chapter is not easy to understand.

Six Chapters were represented on this occasion, one having surrendered its charter and another reported delinquent. The record of the year in some respects was not encouraging.

Grand High Priest Kinney's year of service, he declared, was "almost entirely without incident." He refers to the loss in membership, but "is convinced that it is the last time the balance will be on that side of the ledger."

His visits were limited "by reason of the great distances and pressure of other business." He was not called upon for any decisions, had nothing to report out of the routine and closes with a tribute to the zeal of the Grand Secretary.

The six living Chapters responded to the assessment levied by last year's resolution, and a balance in hand was carried over of \$291.12.

The Correspondence Committee made a ten-line report in which it was stated that all the proceedings to hand were read, but no new questions were before the Royal Craft.

Grand Representatives present were welcomed, among whom was Canada's ambassador, M. E. Comp. Frank Bell.

Trenmor Coffin, Carson City, Grand High Priest ;
C. N. Noteware, Carson City, Grand Secretary.

1896.

Representatives of six Chapters with the Grand officers attended the Twenty-third Annual Convocation which opened and closed in the Masonic Hall, Winnebucca, on the 8th June, one day sufficing for this year.

One of the six Chapters, reported as represented by its second officer, was that which surrendered its charter at the previous convocation. The Grand High Priest thought it had a chance of further existence, and the Committee on Finance recommended a remission of half its indebtedness.

The Grand High Priest's address was necessarily brief. Business depression continued to affect the jurisdiction. He regards the Grand Representative system as cumbrous, and adopts a strange, and we think, strained view of the situation.

“The Grand Representatives seem to be always appointed upon the suggestton or recommendation of the Grand High Priest of the Grand Chapter within the jurisdiction of which they are to reside, and seem to me to quite as much represent the Grand High Priest to whose jurisdiction they are accredited, as they do the Grand Chapter which they are nominally appointed to represent.”

The Committee on the address failed to agree with his views. The Treasurer's balance after payment of all liabilities is \$302. The delinquent Chapter, which is in possession of house property but no money, wrote asking for another year's grace. An awkward question of Chapter jurisdiction submitted to the Grand High Priest was referred to a special committee.

Jason S. Burlingame, Carson City, Grand High Priest ; C. N. Noteware, Carson City, Grand Secretary.

New Hampshire.

Chapters, 24 ; members, 3,335.

M. E. Comp. H. W. Hinds presided over the Seventy-sixth Annual Convocation held in the City of Concord on May 14th, 1895, at which eighteen Chapters were represented. Most of his address is devoted to obituaries and the rest is of purely local interest.

A petition for a new Chapter at Derry was presented and a charter was duly issued.

Comp. A. S. Wait contributes as before the report on Correspondence, and it is in every way worthy of him. Canada for 1894 receives fraternal attention. Quoting Comp. Henry Robertson on the question of dependent membership he says :

“We do not doubt that the requirement of membership in a lodge in order to retain membership in the Chapter is a very modern one in its origin. We have never heard that it is supposed to rest upon any Masonic reason, but upon some supposed reason of mere expediency. We think the expediency of the requirement more than questionable.”

His contention that advancement should not be refused to brethren who having taken one or more

degrees become physically imperfect through accident or misfortune, is criticized by the Georgian reviewer who asks "What light would a blind man receive even if you could legally communicate the degrees to him?" Comp. Wait promptly answers :

"The same light that enables the physically blind to see clearly the way to the throne of grace ; the same light that enables one Mason to know another in the dark as well as in the light. We submit to the candid judgment of our Companions, of Georgia as elsewhere, that, having once admitted a person to one or more of the Masonic degrees and thus taken him by the hand as a brother, we have not a right to withhold from him further mental and Masonic light, merely because he has without his own fault been overtaken by misfortune. And such, we rejoice to believe, is now the opinion of the major part of the Masonic fraternity, growing upon it as conscientious thought is more and more bestowed upon the subject."

William P. Knight, Laconia, Grand High Priest ;
Geo. P. Cleaves, Concord, Grand Secretary.

1896.

The Seventy-seventh Annual Convocation was opened at Concord on the morning of May 19. The Grand Officers, ten Past Grand High Priests and representatives of fifteen Chapters in attendance. Grand High Priest Knight congratulated Grand Chapter on the evidences of renewed interest and progress but utters a note of warning :

"Many candidates who seek admission to our Order are so ambitious to reach the top round of our Masonic ladder, where they expect to receive the consummation of their hopes and desires, that our lectures and ceremonies, however impressively and correctly rendered, fall on ears that fail to catch their meaning or appreciate their beauty."

And again :

"I am, however, informed that there are occasions indulged in by some of our Chapters, where the performance of our rites and ceremonies would show a different condition. There is nothing in Masonry that is not serious and solemn, and anything that would tend to convert our beautiful legends and impressive

ceremonies into a game of sport is a matter that should receive our serious attention and condemnation. Let it be brought home forcibly and fearlessly to all Royal Arch Masons that from this day, on no occasion, should we permit the principles, precepts and example of our Order to fall into disrepute. Our standard should be raised, not lowered; our ambition should ever be to reach the highest possible degree of perfection in our work, so that the sublimity and importance of these degrees should make the impression intended upon all candidates, and that our members should feel that the honors received have not been empty ones. A brother should be exalted, not depressed, in his advancement to the Royal Arch degree. Let us not allow any candidate to feel a sense of injury, but let the scene we would present prove one of joy and benefit to all."

The visitations were frequent and productive of much good, the Grand High Priest and his associates doing their duty in this respect conscientiously. Little wonder that the Chapters in New Hampshire are strong and progressive.

The petition for a warrant for a new Chapter at North Conway was acceded to and the charter issued, making the number of Chapters on the roll 26.

The G. H. P. gave notice that dinner had been provided for Grand Chapter and invited all Companions to attend. A truly excellent idea and worthy of emulation. It is presumed that the attendance at this function was marked by few absentees. By the way, it is observed that New Hampshire is not afflicted by that vampire, the "pay roll," which probably accounts for many of its healthy features.

A resolution was adopted to provide a jewel for each Past Grand High Priest, to be presented at the next Convocation and that hereafter each retiring Grand High Priest be similarly decorated.

Another feast of reason is spread before us in the Correspondence report of Comp. Wait. He never fails to deal generously with Canada. M. E. Comp. J. Ross Robertson's address he calls "a paper of large scope and singular ability," and concludes from the reports that the jurisdiction is enjoying a very fair degree of prosperity.

His greeting to ourselves is characteristically kind. He concludes from our remarks that we approve of the

abolition of the Past Master. We beg to assure him that he need entertain no doubt of the fact, and also that he has our earnest prayers for his own awakening.

In a discussion he "enjoyed" with Comp. Drummond last year, we took occasion to notice in a general way a remark of Comp. Wait's touching the old-time relationship between the Grand Lodge of England and its lodges situated in the distant colonies. Our Quebec colleague seems to have commented in a similar strain, both recalling the unmaternal neglect which is even yet remembered with pain. Comp. Wait, at some length, and we think unnecessarily, explains his position under the impression that he has unwittingly offended. He says :

"What is quoted from us has given great offence to Comp. Whyte, of Quebec, which he quotes without seeing, as does not Comp. Bennett, to notice the occasion which drew from us that passage, though it occurs in immediate connection with it. The subject under discussion between Comp. Drummond and ourself was as to the source of the powers of the General Grand Chapter of the United States. Comp. Drummond had asserted : 'The Provincial Grand Lodge of New York existed under a charter which gave it 'absolute supreme power,' except upon appeal to the Grand Lodge of England.' To this we replied : 'This is true, but what does it prove? It proves that the Grand Lodge of England,' etc., proceeding as is quoted by Comp. Bennett. It must be plainly perceived, as we should think, that what is quoted by our Companion, as an assertion by ourself, was only an inference which we drew from the assertion of Comp. Drummond. It is true we accepted, for the purposes of the discussion, his statement of the facts, and, admitting them to be true for the purposes of the argument, thus turned it against him. We intend to speak of this, now become to us a quite unpleasant matter, when we come to Quebec in the course of this review. We leave the subject here with the assurance that in writing what we did the thought was as far as possible from our minds that we were giving utterance to anything which could give offence to our Companions of Canada or Quebec."

The assurance is wholly unnecessary, Companion. We are quite sure you were as far from such intention as we were of believing you capable of it. If the comment occasioned surprise on your part, the explanation as above was "a teaser" to ourselves when first perused, and the most careful scrutiny since has failed utterly to discover a single sentence that might be con-

strued or contorted into the faintest semblance of offence. The quotation was availed of by us to indulge in retrospection, and if we entertained any feeling at all it was one of gratitude for affording us the opportunity. We fear that our good Companion, in addition to his other estimable qualities, is sensitive even if he is aggressive.

William F. Knight, Laconia, Grand High Priest ;
George P. Cleaves, Concord, Grand Secretary.

New Jersey.

Chapters, 38 ; members, 3,234.

In the rooms of Three Times Three Chapter, in the city of Trenton, and on the 15th of May, 1895, the Thirty-ninth Annual Convocation was opened in Ample Form by M. E. Comp. Thomas O. Ayres, Grand High Priest.

To M. E. Comp. Henry S. Haines, who presided over Grand Chapter in 1884, a Past Grand High Priest's apron was presented on behalf of Siloam Chapter as a mark of esteem. It is pleasant to see that the oldtimers are not forgotten.

Among the visitors were a number of Grand officers from New York who were suitably welcomed.

From the Grand High Priest's address it would appear that the matter of granting and requesting waiver of jurisdiction was not without its complications and consequent trouble. He applied to Grand Chapter to take action with a view to regulating it.

He recommended January instead of May, as the most convenient month for holding the Annual Convocation. Neither the Charity nor the Grievances Committees reported any work in their departments. A charter was granted to the petitioning Companions of Hackensack.

The Grand Master of the Grand Lodge, M. W., Bro. Charles Belcher, accompanied by P. G. M. Durand were presented at the altar, greeted and saluted :

“The opportunity of the function was fully availed of, and it is a matter of regret that the eloquent speeches of the Grand High Priest and Most Worshipful Brethren cannot be reproduced.”

In Canada their rank as R. A. Masons only would be recognized within the Chapter.

An appropriate jewel was presented to the retiring G. H. P.

Grand Secretary Geo. P. Edwards prepared the report on Correspondence which embraced a review of fifty Grand Chapters, Canada for 1894 being included.

“Crossing the line into Canada is of easy accomplishment in these days of facilities; it may be a movement of leisure or haste, of pleasure or necessity, or both. In this instance, the duplex quality prevails, but the Dominion is assured that the necessity is not criminal.”

Under Delaware he thus expresses his opinion of the Past Master's degree :

“The incongruity of listing the degree of Past Master among those of the Chapter is manifest to those who give the matter consideration. Pennsylvania is free from the infliction, by having adopted the English code and conferring it in the Blue Lodges ; but, like the smallpox, it was found in the family way, back in the generations, but has been so effectually Jennerized that in its present form it is entirely harmless. The hilarious symptoms, which were characteristic and previously prevailed, have been succeeded by depression and languor that have been productive of nausea, and in its present grouping it is effete.”

Joseph E. Fulper, Washington, Grand High Priest ;
Geo. B. Edwards, Jersey City, Grand Secretary.

1896.

M. E. Comp. Geo. L. McCahan, G. H. P. of the General Grand Chapter of the United States of America was a visitor to the Fortieth Annual Convocation again held at the city of Trenton, on May 13th and responded to the greeting of the Companions at some length. The occasion, as the recorder puts it, “was a marked chapter in the history of New Jersey Masonry.”

Past Grand High Priest Carter, of Maryland, and Grand High Priest Stivers, of New York, with some of his officers, also honored the occasion.

Twenty-nine Chapters were represented and all the Grand Officers, with thirteen Past Grand High Priests were in attendance.

M. E. Comp. Fulper's address congratulated Grand Chapter on continued prosperity. A number of applications for "waiver," dispensations of the usual fashion and the roll of departed Companions, were duly reported. It was also noted that every Chapter had been officially visited.

Scott Chapter, No. 4, petitioned Grand Chapter to come to their assistance, complaining that they were unable to meet in convocation since the preceding January, owing to their High Priest's non-attendance and his refusal to part with the charter in his possession. The special committee to whom the matter was referred recommended the incoming High Priest to summon the officers and members to meet him and clothed him with power to discipline the refractory.

The incident will doubtless furnish another opportunity to those for and against the necessity of the actual presence of the charter, to air their particular views.

It was decided to procure a jewel for the Organist and a presentation one for the out-going Grand High Priest, and to decorate the printed proceedings with the portrait of Comp. Charles Belcher.

M. E. Comp. Edwards reviews the proceedings of forty-eight Grand Chapters and contributes a terse and enjoyable report. Canada for 1895 claims his fraternal attention in five pages, two of which he devotes to extracts from the Grand Z's address.

"One of the prominent features was the address of Comp. J. Ross Robertson, who, having adopted Masonry as a law unto himself, failed not by precept and example to disseminate its requirements among the Craft of this jurisdiction.

Perhaps his course will be better understood by quoting from his address, in his own words, thus preserving his personality in originality of speech."

The reports of the Grand Superintendents and that of the committee to which they were referred for review were duly noted.

“ ‘To attend divine service,’ and ‘a conversazione in Royal Arch clothing,’ were two of the occasions for dispensations. Why these functions could not have been performed (in a better manner) in the garb of commonality, without Masonic contortion, remains to be solved.”

Contortion! Why that word, and at this stirring season? It so happens that we are perusing Comp. Edwards just at a period when the great United States is exhibiting itself to the rest of the world as the greatest parading nation on the face of the earth. To demonstrate its strength and resources, one side or the other at intervals makes its colossal display. “The millionaire and the laborer, the merchant prince and the humble clerk march side by side.” (vide daily papers of any city you like). Nor are they content to tramp “in the garb of commonality;” fantastical and extravagant uniforms that only the wily costumer can design, swords, buttons, badges, etc., serve not only to transform the sober citizen for the time being into a politically intoxicated enthusiast, but furnish mental food for the wonder stricken observer who pauses to contemplate the vastness of the extraordinary spectacle.

Personally we are not enamored of Masonic display outside the Lodge or Chapter room, but when the wearing of the apron at a Masonic conversazione or church service is subjected to hard names such as “Masonic contortion,” by one Companion, and “vulgarity” by another, it comes opportune to offer the suggestion about the mutual recriminations of the pot and the kettle.

It is barely possible, however, that the permission given to Companions to wear “Royal Arch clothing” may be interpreted by Comp. Edwards to mean the robes and paraphernalia that are used in the ceremonies. If so, we can understand his indignation. The clothing referred to consists only of the simple sash, apron and jewel, and in attending service arrayed in these they are

not a whit more masonically contorted than are the chivalric brethren of Jersey City or elsewhere when they proceed to divine service on stated occasions with all the pomp and circumstance of their knightly order, and who would doubtless perform the function with equal piety and devotion "in the garb of commonality."

"After a devotion as Correspondent for twenty-seven years, Comp. Henry Robertson delivered his valedictory and retired, surrounded by the love and appreciation of the Craft for which he had labored so long with persistency and intelligence."

Of our initial effort he says :

"It would appear as though apology was out of order, either for the assignment or performance."

He quotes us liberally, and concludes :

"New Jersey found favor in his sight, for he introduced into his report quotations from the address of Comp. Bale and the Correspondence report of that year. He closes the paper with 'Happy to meet; sorry to part,' evolving no 'happy' future."

Not that we overlooked it. Oh, no! What was in that future we dared not contemplate. We expected surprises. The kindly tolerance displayed towards our review may be instanced as one, and a second that we were retained to perpetrate another. Happy to meet again.

"If we do meet again, why, we shall smile.
If not, why then this parting was well made."

Henry C. Wagoner, Somerville, Grand High Priest;
George B. Edwards, Jersey City, Grand Secretary.

New York.

Chapters, 187 ; Members, 19,400.

Two hundred and sixty officers and members attended the Ninety-ninth Annual Convocation held in the city of Albany, Feb. 4th, 1896. The portraits of Grand High Priest Greenwood and Grand Treasurer Russ embellish the fine volume recording the proceedings.

“Already the dawning light of a new century begins to brighten our pathway, and as its glory grows upon us more and more, it casts the darkening veil of forgetfulness over many of the events of the century past. So great and so marvelous have been the changes and achievements of the past, and so rapidly have they crowded upon each other, that it has seemed almost like the touch of Aladdin’s lamp. And even the events within the lifetime of many here, seem so far away in the past that it is hard to realize that they come within the century.

And yet, with all the changes that have come to the world ; with all our increased knowledge and opportunities for doing and learning ; with all the world’s achievements in every walk in life, the needs and requirements of humanity remain just the same as when this institution of ours was first set up on the hills of Judea. Brotherly Love, Relief and Truth were the tenets of our profession then, and they remain the same now. Fortitude, Prudence, Temperance and Justice were the virtues men were then taught upon their entrance into our fraternity the same as now. The legends of the Craft and their lessons to the seeker after light, which taught the same manliness, fortitude, patience under persecution, and fidelity to right against opposing evil, were exemplified then as now for the great end, that men’s hearts might be prepared and fitted as living stones for that spiritual building, that house not made with hands eternal in the heavens. So Masonry goes on from age to age doing the same work, accomplishing the same ends, in the same quiet but effective way.”

With these appropriate sentences did Grand High Priest Marvin J. Greenwood open the address in which he welcomed the Companions.

His record of duties embraced a number of decisions and the issue of dispensations, most of which were of local interest.

The written request of a High Priest of a Chapter to a similar officer of another Chapter, asking that the R. A. degree be conferred upon a brother who had

received the subordinate degrees but whose business engagements interfered with his receiving exaltation in his home Chapter, was held to be wrong. The Chapter as a body should have voted to that effect and the communication forwarded under seal. It was also decided that the recipient of the degree had come by it in an unauthorized manner and was not lawfully in possession of the knowledge imparted to him, and the suggestion was offered that his own Chapter should heal him at the earliest opportunity and so relieve him of "the embarrassing position in which he stands without any fault whatever on his part."

What mighty oaks do grow out of little acorns. Here is another query of the tweedledum and tweedledee pattern with which ruling officers are occasionally worried :

"A number of candidates are balloted for at the same time and the ballot is cloudy; is it then necessary to deposit the ballot-box on the altar, and have each Companion ballot in form, or is it sufficient to pass the ballot-box around the room, the Captain of the Host collecting the ballots as in the first instance? In case the latter procedure has been adopted, and the ballot-box has been passed around the room, is the ballot null and void because it was not taken in *due form*?"

And in "due form" the questioner is told that "he pays his money and takes his choice." or words to that effect.

The Albany fraternity in the September preceding wrote to the G. H. P. stating that their Masonic Hall, then in progress of construction, was approaching completion, and asked that the Grand Chapter conduct the ceremonies of setting the keystone in the principal arch, concluding :

"We are given to understand that the last public ceremonies by the Grand Chapter were in Albany, at the opening of the Erie Canal, in 1825, and that this ceremony would be proper for them to perform."

The Grand High Priest replied pointing out the necessity for declining owing to the brief interval, etc., and adding :

"The policy of Royal Arch Masons has always been to avoid public display and ostentatious ceremonies, all ceremonies of this description being committed entirely to the Grand Lodge as having entire control of such work and duties. Hence we have nothing in our Rituals providing for such ceremonies, nor is there anything in the Grand Lodge rituals contemplating such work as you propose. Should your invitation be accepted, it would make necessary the preparation and dissemination of a ritual for the occasion, as well as to extend a notice to all members of the Grand Chapter, for which the time at our disposal would be much too short, as in the first place it takes a week at least to consult with the officers of the Grand Chapter.

Therefore, while thanking you for the feeling that prompted the invitation, but acting solely on my own judgment, without having any opportunity to consult with others, I feel constrained to decline your invitation for this ceremony. But when the time comes that the building shall be completed, then, as Master Masons, we will all gladly join with you in its dedication."

From the many visits made by the G. H. P. he concluded that Capitular Masonry was growing in favor and influence.

The Deputy G. H. P's report demonstrated that he was equally active in visitation. Gate-of-the-Temple Chapter surrendered its warrant to him.

The G. H. P. received in July the commission appointing Comp. William G. Shirkall as the representative of the Grand Chapter of Canada near the Grand Chapter of New York.

The Grand Secretary's report shows a gain in membership of 613 as compared with last year's report of the work done. He says:

"One hundred and fifty-four Chapters conferred all of the degrees, nine conferred only a part of the series, eight did no work, but affiliated or restored Companions, and sixteen utterly failed to cultivate their vineyards, in respect of work, but generally lost ground by the dimission or suspension of Companions.

Of the present number of Chapters (one hundred and eighty-six), fifty-four report a membership of 50 or less; sixty-eight from 50 to 100 members; twenty-eight from 100 to 150; seventeen from 150 to 200; seven from 200 to 250; two from 250 to 300; four from 300 to 350, and four from 350 to 400. One Chapter has a membership of 436, and one of 672. The smallest number of members in any Chapter is 21."

On the ever-recurring question of non-payment of dues, the Grand Secretary says:

“To entirely suppress this evil, for such it must be regarded, since it injuriously affects the vital interests not only of the subordinates and the Grand Chapter, but the good name of the Royal Craft, is, perhaps, an impossibility, but that it may be much lessened by judicious action is a self-evident proposition. The fact that there are many thousands of Royal Arch Masons in the jurisdiction unaffiliated for the non-performance of a plain and simple duty—a duty solemnly enjoined by law and obligation—is not, nor can ever be a pleasing reflection to those who regard the Institution of Masonry as a co-relative of honor and integrity.

The truth of the matter is that the Chapters are largely responsible for the prevalence of the evil referred to, in the fact that they do not insist upon the prompt payment of that which is their due at a stated time annually. The annual dues of any Masonic body are so small in amount that a simple demand or request for their payment, even from those whose personal interest has declined, approximating the utmost limit of indifference, would be met with a ready and cheerful response, but when the dues are suffered to accumulate for a series of years, until they amount to a considerable sum—and it is for this that the penalty of suspension is usually inflicted—it is regarded by many as a burden from which, disregarding their duty, they gladly escape through the instrumentality of the prescribed penalties.

To cure the evil of unaffiliation for the non-payment of dues, or to reduce it to its lowest possible limit, is the prompt collection of annual dues, and to the performance of this bounden duty, Chapters should assiduously employ every means within their power to effect so desirable a result.”

Grand Lecturer McGown was indefatigable as usual. He visited and instructed thirty Chapters, and notes a decided advance in the desire for accuracy, though there is still room for improvement. At the evening session he exemplified the Mark degree.

“Freemasonry a science adapted to the age” was the subject of an erudite address delivered by Grand Chaplain Murray to the Companions on the morning of the second day. We perused it with much pleasure and perhaps some profit.

The Committee on Grievances reported that there was nothing before them to report on; a condition of affairs in such a vast jurisdiction most gratifying.

The “pay roll” presented the formidable total of \$4,145.75, but New York evidently believes that the laborer is worthy of his hire. Among other features of the disbursements are Grand Secretary’s salary, \$2000;

Grand Lecturer do., \$1600 ; Testimonial, G. H. P., \$342 ; G. H. P. travelling expenses, \$300 ; D. G. H. P. do., \$200 ; Grand Treasurer, \$250 ; Correspondence Chairman, \$250 ; Grand Chaplain, \$150.

A resolution was adopted providing for a testimonial to Grand Secretary Fox in recognition of his thirty years of service in that capacity.

The Companions at Gloversville petitioned for a charter, but the nearest, that at Johnstown, declined to recommend the petition. In view of the fact that the former place boasts a population of 16,000 and the latter only 11,000, the committee considered the refusal as a dog-in-the-manger sort of policy, and an amendment to the constitution was subsequently proposed providing for a direct application under such circumstances.

Comp. Rev. James Byron Murray, Grand Chaplain, on behalf of the Committee on Necrology presented a very touching report :

"It is for our Masonic departed, a higher eulogy than chiseled stone could record, to say their lives were beautiful, in that they dedicated all that was best and purest to the service of God. Lives so lived are a constant, fadeless influence, and fall in benediction on other lives, as the shadow of the Apostle of old fell on many for their healing. They who love their fellow men, who trusted God, obeyed His will, and did their labor as divinely appointed, are worthy, and their names will shine hereafter among the unknown heroes who fought and died for truth.

' While for their bodies, meek Piety shall plead,
 Blessed Piety which honor the dead ;
 Those scattered far and wide, yet God's own eye
 Doth keep them that they perish not ; and when
 The promised hour shall come, their God again
 Shall gather them, and as He builds on high
 His habitation, each there moulded by His grace,
 Shall live and find a sure abiding place.' "

Comp. G. J. Gardner's "survey of the Capitular world " is a painstaking and elaborate work. Whatever of value comes under his observation is carefully extracted and if need be fraternally and kindly criticized. As a volume of reference for the year it is unequalled, and to the twenty thousand Companions for whom it is

compiled must be eagerly welcomed with each recurring year as a mine of information.

With Canada he lingers to the extent of ten pages, and even then parts with us reluctantly. To M. E. Comp. J. Ross Robertson's address he gives unstinted praise and comes very near reproducing it entire. He says it

"Abounds throughout with eloquent passages and practical ideas to such an extent, that it is with great difficulty that we can restrain ourself within a reasonable compass in our selections therefrom. It ought not to be mutilated, nor can we, in our limited space, give it entire. In this quandary, we must effect a compromise, and ask the indulgence of our readers, and crave the tender mercies of our Finance Committee.

* * *

What better homily can we have than this, on the instance of dispensations for new Chapters, where the material is unfitted and the field not properly prepared for the husbandman. Would that these words of wisdom were read and pondered over by every officer in authority before availing himself of that prerogative, with which he is entrusted, of admitting a new-born member into the family.

* * *

Nowhere have we met with such sensible comments on the correct form of Marks as in this address.

* * *

We close these extracts from this magnificent, eloquent and practical address with his concluding words. There is much we have been obliged to leave behind, which we know would be of service to the Craft; but we feel that we have already overstepped the bounds of prudence, and must close."

Of the report on the condition of Capitular Masonry he says:

"It contains much excellent advice to those officers, and incidentally to all holding official relations to the Craft." —

Coming to the Correspondence report, he observes:

"To those who have familiarized themselves with the authorship of these reports, they will perceive that the above mentioned Companion is a new member of the corps reportorial. M. E. Henry Robertson, our Representative near that Grand Body, after a service of many years, has found it necessary to decline further service in that capacity. We append hereto a portion of his valedictory.

We regret to lose him from the ranks of the Guild because we shall miss his wise and fatherly counsels as those of a veteran in the ranks. We have read and studied his reports, not only with pleasure, but with instruction, and we shall feel that we are deprived of a valuable tutor in our Masonic knowledge. Besides this, it adds to the solemn thoughts of the many and oft changes we are called upon to chronicle in the ranks of our co-laborers. We take this opportunity to thank him for the many hours of enjoyment we have spent in perusing his work, and in parting, we trust he may rest assured that he carries with him our warmest fraternal wishes for a long life stored with blissful happiness."

To Comp. Robertson's successor he stretches forth a fraternal hand and says, "We welcome him to the field with open arms." He then devotes a page or more to kindly references to, and quotations from, our review, a compliment from one George J. duly appreciated by the other.

Geo. E. W. Stivers, New York, Grand High Priest ;
Chris. G. Fox, Buffalo, Grand Secretary.

North Carolina.

Chapters, 23 ; Members, 818.

Unlike most other jurisdictions which observe the long recognized phraseology, North Carolina's Grand Chapter opens and closes in "solemn form," and which our "tar heel" Companions doubtless consider "ample" enough for all purposes.

The printed proceedings of the Forty-seventh Annual Convocation held in the city of Durham, May 16th, 1895, are embraced in a neatly arranged, red covered volume which we gladly welcome, that for the preceding year having failed to connect.

M. E. Comp. Henry J. Clark's address touched upon many subjects, some of which have become familiar, financial depression that characterized the year in which he reigned, and the bright outlook for his successor, the unbroken harmony which is too often a synonym for inactivity, and dispensations to enable somebody to ride through a regulation. Hear what he says :

“ Although not an advocate of railroading in Masonry, yet when dispensations have been asked for to act without the usual delay, and it was clearly shown that the interest of the Craft was at stake, I have not hesitated to grant them, knowing full well that I was tempting fate by thus trusting myself to the tender mercies of the watchful critic.”

Two of these dispensations were issued to permit Chapters to receive and act upon petitions of nine M. M. in each case for the purpose of establishing Chapters. That the agency was questionable is inferred from the following :

“ My report will show steps taken to organize several new Chapters. They are still ‘embryonic,’ yet with a little gentle nursing they will surely materialize.”

One Chapter did organize under his dispensation, but it appears they had obtained a recommendation from an existing Chapter that was not the nearest to them, and an unpleasant controversy ensued which was finally ended in Grand Chapter. The Grand High Priest’s action was sustained and a charter issued.

The following resolution was submitted :

“ That a committee of three Companions, who are not Knights Templar, be appointed to consider the desirability of not holding the Annual Convocation of the Grand Chapter in conjunction with the Annual Conclave of the Grand Commandery Knights Templar, said committee to report at the next Annual Convocation.”

Comp. James Southgate, a veteran in the corps, furnishes the Correspondence report, and has a kind word for Canada and its methods. He thinks our “plethoric treasury” would go far towards the endowment of a Masonic home. The transplanting of Chapters he regards as a new feature and worthy of imitation, “a green pasture is often good for the flock.”

The absence of North Carolina’s representative is noted, and he suggests that perhaps a revision of the list is necessary. Mention of the survivor of ’57 elicits the following :

“ We congratulate this veteran, Comp. Kivas Tully, and wish him many returns of this anniversary.”

Walter E. Storm, Wilmington, Grand High Priest ;
Horace H. Munson, Wilmington, Grand Secretary.

1896.

The Forty-eighth Annual Convocation was held at Newburn, May 12th, 1896, and, as usual, opened in "solemn" form.

Grand High Priest Storm's address was a faithful résumé of the year's duties. His tributes to departed Companions included one to Past Grand High Priest Geo. W. Blount, who was also a Past Grand Master of the Grand Lodge.

"And as each year when we assemble, we note with moistened eye the vacant chair, we reflect that our eyes are 'as ships that pass in the night, and speak each other in the passing, only a signal shown, and a distant voice in the darkness, so on the ocean of life we pass and speak one another, with only a look and a voice, then darkness again and a silence.'"

That a chief officer is a legitimate target for the curious is occasionally observed in the remarkable questions put to him, many of which are superfluous and not a few silly. Here are a couple of North Carolina specimens:

"Can the petition of a clergyman be received without accompanying fee?"

"When a Companion is buried by his Chapter, should seven shovelfuls of earth be deposited upon the coffin by each Companion?"

One can readily imagine that the hope was mentally raised that when the questioner in the latter case came to be planted that the number would be increased to seven hundred. The bare possibility of such an one coming back is appalling to contemplate.

He issued a dispensation for a new Chapter at Burnsville.

To the principal officers he assigned certain districts for visitation, but regretted that his own good intentions in that respect were "frustrated by demands of business." Alas, how often this happens and in seasons of depression too. He made an official visit to Concord Chapter, his own, and installed the officers.

Attention is directed to the Oxford Orphan Asylum, and the proposed memorial cottage to be donated by Royal Arch Masons, contemplated a year ago, but not yet materialized. He touchingly leaves the "completion" to his successor.

Eighteen Chapters reported dormant, still hold their charters, and the Grand High Priest urges prompt action with regard to them. They were reported by the Grand Secretary the year previous, but of what had been done in the interval deponent sayeth not.

The sunshine of prosperity which had been predicted for himself was only in its dawn, so that the probabilities of its genial rays warming the coming ruler into official activity were rosy. The good times were undoubtedly coming.

"The arduous duties of an exacting profession have prevented me from lending the dignity of my office to that personal encouragement of subordinate Chapters, which I fain would hope could have shown greater results."

It was really too bad that they should have so pressed upon him at that particular time, but thus it happens with many others of noble intention. He closes eloquently and appeals to that ancient garment which has done duty faithfully since fashion discarded the fig leaf:

"Above all, he is but human, so while reviewing his administration and noting the errors therein, let fall upon his shoulders the broad mantle of charity, and remember the old adage, 'Put yourself in his place.'"

The Grand Secretary's report embraced some suggestions for consideration and action, the necessity of securing copies of bound proceedings, the question of retention of the Grand Representative system, the advisability of publishing the names of expelled and suspended members, and once more, the need for immediate action with regard to dormant Chapters.

These and other matters were considered by the Jurisprudence Committee which decided against interference with the representatives and also against publishing names of members expelled or suspended.

The Committee on Warrants recommended that dormant Chapters be taken into the fold again on dispensation and payment of \$15.

A committee of three was appointed to communicate with the Chapters with a view to raising a fund with which to erect the memorial cottage in connection with the Orphans' Home, and a resolution was adopted appropriating the sum of \$150 towards the education of Lulu Porter. North Carolina's heart beats in the right place.

There is no record of any report being submitted in connection with the resolution regarding the meeting of Grand Chapter at the same time and place as the K. T. Conclave, for which a committee was appointed the previous year.

Again we gladly greet Comp. Southgate whose labor of love is embraced in 116 pp. of an excellent and entertaining review of forty-six Grand Chapters compiled under physical disability which we trust by this time has passed away. He is as usual, generous with Canada. Of M. E. Comp. J. Ross Robertson's record of visits he says :

"This is a feat which should entitle this M. E. Grand Z. to the prize for visitation."

* * *

"With such a Grand Z., Canada Masonry should shine forth 'fair as the moon, bright as the sun, and terrible (in conquest for truth) as an army with banners.'"

He quotes liberally from the address, and winds up :

"The address of M. E. Comp. J. Ross Robertson, Grand Z., is one of the best we have read, and apart from its high literary merit, exhibits an amount of labor and zeal heretofore unknown in the annals of Capitular Masonry. He should have this office for life."

He notes M. E. Comp. Henry Robertson's valedictory, and says of him :

"No member of the Guild has been more devotedly attentive to his work or made more faithful reviews. He resigned last year and leaves the tripod, bearing many regrets of the Repor-

torial Corps. May the blessings of a kind Providence attend him in his declining years, and his last days be his best and happiest."

He holds that the Past Master's degree belongs of right to the Chapter, but gather from his remarks that were it abolished his grief would not be excessive. To the New Jersey reporter who is uncompromisingly opposed to it, he says: "The only remedy, Companion, is to get the General Grand Chapter to take it out; but so long as it remains an integral part of the Capitular system, we must endure."

May we add a hope that his powers of endurance be such as to lighten in a measure the pain and weariness which the infliction entails and which Canada bore with patient fortitude until the happy day when the burden was removed.

W. S. Liddell, Charlotte, Grand High Priest;
Horace H. Munson, Wilmington, Grand Secretary.

North Dakota.

Chapters, 14 ; members, 798.

Excellent portraits of the Grand High Priest and Grand Secretary grace the pages of the printed proceedings of this Grand Chapter's Sixth Annual Convocation, held at Fargo, June 14th, 1895.

M. E. Comp. Sylvester J. Hill's address was comprehensive as it was brief. The subjects were more or less of local interest. Two dispensations for new Chapters were issued. He stated that the Grand Secretary had formulated a system for keeping the records which the subordinate Chapters should copy.

"Force of circumstances" compelled him to leave undone much of the work he had planned and hoped to accomplish. He, however, saw the dawn of a returning prosperity, which no doubt his successor will reap the advantage of. It is hard to labor under a cloud.

The Grand Secretary reported the jurisdiction stronger than ever with bright prospects.

The Finance Committee reported all claims liquidated and a balance of over \$800 in hand.

The Grand High Priest was presented with a handsome jewel, the presentation being made by the Grand Secretary "in a modest manner," as the record modestly puts it.

The acting Grand Sentinel was given a *douceur* of \$5, "in appreciation of his urbanity."

Theodore F. Branch, Jamestown, Grand High Priest; Frank J. Thompson, Fargo, Grand Secretary.

1896.

Fargo was again the meeting place and the Seventh Annual Convocation was opened by M. E. Comp. Grand High Priest Branch on the forenoon of June 11th, 1896.

His address commenced with a welcome to "the beautiful city of 'Get There' (I should say Fargo)."

"I desire at this time on behalf of Ohio, Oregon and West Virginia, which States I have the great honor to represent, to extend to you the right hand of fellowship, as well as I can with only one right hand. So far as I have been able to learn from reading their Proceedings and otherwise, they are pretty well, thank you, and wish you the same."

He recommended Comp. George H. Keys to represent the Grand Chapter of Canada near that of North Dakota.

"Under this head I desire to say, that I believe the system of exchanging representatives is a good one, but that it is not duly appreciated by many of those receiving commissions. I have known cases where Proceedings have been received and never opened, and I presume they never even acknowledge their receipt. Nothing is more interesting and valuable to a student of Chapter Masonry than reading the Proceedings and Report on Correspondence of other Grand jurisdictions. If they don't send them to you, write for them, and then read them and learn what is going on outside your own little burg. I notice that some of the Companions represent several States, myself among the number, representing Ohio, Oregon and West Virginia, which is two too many. I believe we have enough worthy Companions, that if the honors were properly apportioned no Companion would have more than one commission, and I herewith give notice that I will tender my resignation as representative of Oregon and West Virginia. I stick to Ohio because I was

born there, and spent some thirty-three brief summers of the early part of my existence in that good old State."

Among his dispensations was one to form a new Chapter at Minot. Two Chapters were constituted. He regretted that he was unable to visit all the Chapters and then gives his views as to why some of them "are either at a standstill or going backward."

"Now I don't want to be understood as attaching the blame for this state of affairs to the Chapters so much as to the conditions surrounding them. I can imagine that the two principal reasons for stagnation and lack of interest would be incompetent officers, particularly that of High Priest, and not enough Blue Lodges in the jurisdiction of the Chapter.

As to the first, while I admit that a fine ritualist is not all that goes to make up a first-class presiding officer, I think it is a very essential ingredient. You all know what your sensations are at seeing our beautiful and impressive work done in an imperfect and slovenly manner, no one thing will cause a Chapter to go down grade as quick, and when it once commences to go down everything appears to be greased for the occasion. I don't mean to insinuate that we have any such officers, present company always excepted, but it does no harm to think of these things when it comes time for election. I believe it should be an unwritten law that no Companion be advanced to the East until he had shown his Chapter, by actual work, that he is qualified; of course, the High Priest should be courteous enough to give those next in line an opportunity. I received the most of my Masonic education in Ohio, and there it was an unheard of proceeding to elect one to the East who had not proved by actual work that he was competent."

What would not the ministrations of a visiting Grand High Priest do for these sickly Chapters and their incompetent officers? There is, however, something in this which we like:

"Any new Chapter will get along very well for the first year or two, until the present material is exhausted, but when a Chapter is formed in a small town, with only one, or even two lodges to draw from, I think it is a question of only a short time before it will be up-hill work, and no matter how competent the officers or how zealous the members, the Chapter will soon advance backward and eventually retire to the obscurity it is so fitted to adorn.

Therefore I would recommend that no new Chapters be organized unless they have at least three or more lodges to draw from, or a certain fixed number of Blue Lodge Masons to draw from, or perhaps both."

The indefatigable Grand Secretary reported a net gain in membership of thirty-two, which would have been more but for the "depression."

The ladies, whose absence from the last Convocation created a hideous and aching void, were on hand this time, and the Eastern Star shone brilliantly. The advent of the galaxy is best given in the words of the "modest" and "diffident" recorder :

"The Grand Chapter was called from labor to refreshment and the ladies and members of the Grand Chapter O. E. S. entered. Mrs. Lorraine J. Pitkin, Grand Secretary of the General Grand Chapter O.E.S., in behalf of the Order of Eastern Star, presented to the Grand High Priest as the representative of the Grand Chapter Royal Arch Masons, a beautiful bouquet of flowers. The Grand High Priest responded to the presentation, and said, among other things, that he never felt his inability to express his thoughts as he did at the present time, and called upon the Grand Secretary to respond to the beautiful token of love and esteem. The Grand Secretary was taken somewhat by surprise, but, notwithstanding the sea of faces and the innumerable eyes which were turned toward him at the request, proceeded to acknowledge the gift in such words as his embarrassed condition would permit. In response to what he said, Mrs. Pitkin replied in sentiments beautiful and appropriate."

This "token of love and esteem" coming at such a time was bound to play havoc with susceptible heads and hearts. Mark the alarming effect.

The record then proceeds with the business of the Grand Chapter. It does not relate that the ladies retired or that the Companions were even called from refreshment to labor. Reports from the several committees were received, discussed and adopted, during all of which the ladies remained discreetly silent. The election and installation of officers ensued and not a feminine voice was heard during the ceremony. But why the 'modest' Grand Secretary should have again undertaken the presentation of the jewel when the value of the article would have been enhanced a hundred fold when pinned on the manly bosom of the G. H. P. by the fair hands of an Eastern Star beauty is altogether incomprehensible. We are compelled to reiterate our apprehension that the attractive North Dakotans are playing

with fire, the results being already foreshadowed in the demoralizing effect produced on a worthy and promising citizen of "the beautiful city of Get There."

"Tis not a lip, or eye, we beauty call,
But the joint force and full result of all."

Albert B. Herrick, Lisbon, Grand High Priest;
Frank J. Thompson, Fargo, Grand Secretary.

Nova Scotia.

Chapters, 14; Members, 673.

At Sydney, Cape Breton, the Twenty-sixth Annual Convocation of the Grand Chapter of Nova Scotia was called to order on the morning of June 11th, 1895. The attendance was hardly up to the average.

Of the fourteen Chapters on the roll ten are in Nova Scotia, two in Prince Edward Island, one in Cape Breton and one in Newfoundland. One only failed to send in returns, and is reported sick for three years, viz., Rossignol, No. 6, Liverpool, N.S.

Among the active members who were called away during the year, and to whom the Grand High Priest feelingly alludes, was R. E. Comp. Hon. Moses Monroe, the representative of the Grand High Priest in Newfoundland. In the April previous he penned his report of the Chapter in Newfoundland, in which he recorded the death of two Companions, Captain Henry Bartlett and Chief Engineer Carl Ficher, who were lost in the Steamship "Falcon," which foundered with all on board on a voyage from Philadelphia to St. John's. On the 17th May he again wrote to apprise his chief of another death, and six weeks later his own was announced. A portrait of the deceased Companion is published with the proceedings.

M. E. Comp. W. B. Alley, Grand High Priest, in welcoming the Companions, referred to the success of the previous Convocation at New Glasgow:

"At one time during our deliberations thirty voters were present, and in the procession next day there were upwards of

fifty Royal Arch Masons, their portion of it being unique and impressive, while the whole was a grand Masonic demonstration."

This kind of thing has been criticized adversely by a number of our reviewing Companions across the border, who, though partial to cocked hats, nodding plumes, and playing at soldiers generally, draw the line at the R. A. apron being exhibited in public. The Nova Scotian Companions are case-hardened, it appears, and fail to appreciate the caustic references to their little outings. It is probable, too, that the contrast between the modest regalia of the Companion and the outfit on which sacred emblems are planted, like Mark Twain's lightning rods, wherever there is a vacant space, affords just a little quiet satisfaction and enables them to endure meekly. All the same, we are of those who believe that the less outside display of Masonry the more will we be respected by the observing profane.

He was active in visitation, although unable to visit Prince Edward Island or Newfoundland. He was, however ably represented. The Chapter on the latter Island was hit hard by the collapse of a bank, "but is still in the ring," being free from debt and possessing an active membership.

Nova Scotia has adopted the nomenclature of the United States for its officers, and countenances the degree of Anointed High Priest. It restricts the office of High Priest, too, to those only who have presided over the Blue Lodge. In one case the Grand High Priest was appealed to on behalf of a zealous Companion who had labored through the several offices in his Chapter and whom his Companions would delight to honor, but the regulation was imperative.

The following clause in the report of the Committee of General Purposes is worded so that all who run may read :

" Your Committee to whom was referred the circular from the Supreme Grand Chapter of Victoria, would recommend that as this M. E. Grand Chapter of Nova Scotia is on fraternal intercourse with the M. E. Grand Chapter of Canada, that the Grand Secretary be directed to write the R. E. Companion T.

H. Lempriere, Grand Scribe E., M. E. Grand Chapter of Victoria, stating that this is an entirely different jurisdiction from the Grand Chapter of Ontario or (Canada) so-called, that this jurisdiction is an independent Grand Body, styled the Grand Chapter of Nova Scotia, holding jurisdiction over Prince Edward Island and Newfoundland."

"We're little, but, oh my!"

An invitation from the Grand Lodge to join with it in procession to attend divine service the next morning was accepted.

The honorary rank of Past Grand Scribe was conferred upon Comp. Pincent, of Newfoundland, who was appointed the representative of the Grand High Priest there in place of Comp. Monroe, deceased.

Simon W. Crabbe, Charlottetown, P.E.I., Grand High Priest; Alex. Ross, Halifax, Grand Secretary.

Ohio.

Chapters, 146; Members, 13,764.

Under very happy auspices the Seventy-ninth Annual Convocation assembled in the City of Cleveland on the 11th September, 1895. The Mayor welcomed the Grand Chapter to the city, and complimented the Grand High Priest and his officers "for the handsome manner in which the opening ceremonies were rendered."

All the presiding officers of all the Masonic Grand bodies of Ohio were present, as well as the oldest living Past Grand High Priest of the jurisdiction, M. E. Comp. Harvey Vinal, then in his eighty-eighth year.

M. E. Comp. Gibson H. Robinson, Grand High Priest, detailed his record of duties for the year in a most commendable address. Three of the two hundred who crossed the dark river are specially mentioned: Comp. Charles Brown, Grand Treasurer of the Grand Lodge; Comp. Charles Drouillard, a veteran of the war of 1812, who passed away after attaining his ninety-ninth year, and Comp. Dr. Godfrey, an officer of the Grand Lodge for many years.

Among his decisions is the following:

“Comp. J. H. Colton, High Priest of Lafayette Chapter, No. 60, writes as follows :

First. In conferring the Mark Degree recently, a candidate positively refused to conform to a part of the ceremony of initiation. I ordered the Senior Deacon to remove him from the Lodge. Was I right ?

Second. What is his standing ? Is he a Mark Master ?

Third. We returned the candidate the fee. Was it right ?

Answer, First. You were right in ordering the candidate's removal from the Lodge when he refused to comply with the ceremony of initiation.

Second. He is a Mark Master when he has taken the obligation.

Third. You were in error to return the fee.

Ohio, unlike many of its sister jurisdictions which preferred to make haste slowly, had extended its sympathetic recognition to the recently formed Grand Chapter of Victoria and acceded to the request of the latter for an exchange of representatives. The Victorian Companion to whom Ohio's commission was forwarded, very gracefully acknowledges the compliment, and in the course of his communication says :

“The First Grand Principal in the chair requested me to convey to you the thanks of our Grand Chapter for the fraternal sympathy and support given us by your Grand Chapter of Ohio in our unfortunate dispute with the Grand Chapter of Canada. This is, I am happy to say, likely now to be ended by the Companions of the Canadian Constitution here surrendering their Canadian warrants, and taking others from the Grand Chapter of Victoria ; and I may add that at a meeting held last night, I believe the last obstacle in the way was removed.”

And in a letter to the Grand Secretary he further says :

“It gives me great pleasure to inform you that at the meeting of the Grand Chapter of Victoria, held in Freemasons' Hall, Melbourne, last night, the Royal Arch Chapters working in this territory under warrants from the Grand Chapter of Canada, attended and surrendered the warrants in question, receiving in lieu thereof foundation charters of the Supreme Grand Chapter of Victoria. Thus the unfortunate schism which has existed here in the past with reference to Royal Arch Masonry has been ended, and we shall be prepared to enter into

friendly relations with the Grand Chapter of Canada, should that body desire to do so. This, we understand from the late Grand Superintendent of the Canadian Chapters, they are certain to do. The utmost good feeling was shown by both parties."

The Grand High Priest adds :

" I am informed by our Grand Secretary that he has received a communication from a Past Grand High Priest of the Grand Chapter of Victoria, stating that the differences that have existed between the Companions of the Canadian Constitution and the Grand Chapter of Victoria have been happily adjusted."

The old jewels of the Grand Chapter which had been considered lost for some time, were, during the year, recovered.

Two Chapters held out against payment of the Masonic Home per capita tax. One of them yielded after some judicious correspondence, and the other was taken in hand by a committee, which recommended

"That the Grand High Priest requires from LaGrange Chapter the immediate payment of the arrearage of tax for the erection of the Masonic Home, due from said Chapter, and that in default of such payment within sixty days from the close of this Grand Body, he treat said Chapter as in contempt of the authority of this Grand Chapter, and that he proceed against it according to Masonic law and usage."

Grand Chapter unanimously adopted the recommendation.

The Grand Chapter of New Zealand was duly recognized, and further time was permitted for the Committee on Correspondence to consider the status of the Grand Lodge of Mark Master Masons of New South Wales.

A sum of two thousand dollars was appropriated to the Masonic Home.

All living Past Grand High Priests not hitherto so decorated, are to be presented with jewels.

The portrait of that hale old veteran of the Correspondence corps, Comp. S. Stacker Williams, precedes

his admirable report, which he prefaces with a brief history of the Royal Craft in Scotland, the recent union of conflicting Grand Bodies there furnishing the occasion.

Under Delaware he notices Comp. Harrison's approval of Canada's action in ousting the Past Master, and adds :

"So far as we are concerned, if the so-called degree, as generally conferred in this country, should be discarded by both Grand Lodge and Grand Chapter, we would not don the habiliments of mourning."

To Comp. Drummond, who had set the seal of his approval on the distinctive terms "York Rite" and "Scottish Rite," he says :

"Companion Drummond evidently has not read our remarks on the misuse of the term in question, for he speaks as though the terms York and Scottish were simply selected and appropriated as names for the two rites named, simply because somebody fancied it a proper thing to do, and the multitude following suit, the terms must be considered appropriate. But the term York did not come into use in any such way. It was held by many for a long time and by a few now that our Lodges traced their pedigree to a Grand Lodge which once existed in York, England, when the fact is, not a drop of her blood courses the veins of an American Lodge."

Under North Carolina he says on the visible ritual subject :

"In our intercourse with members of the Craft, those who cry the loudest against a printed (no matter how blind) ritual are Companions or brethren who have for years carried a manuscript copy of the work in their pockets."

And again to Oregon :

"It is no new thing. Such were used by Thomas Smith Webb, and if you will visit us, we will show you a copy of the work of one of the bodies in his own hand writing."

Oregon's reviewer having taken Alabama to task for including the Grand Mark Lodge of England and

Wales in his report, on the ground that its connection with American Royal Arch Masonry has not been shown, Comp. Williams pertinently adds :

“ He admits it to be right enough, but cannot see the propriety of it. We presume Companion Pillans does it for the same reason that a number of the rest do, that is, to furnish information of interest to our readers. Will Companion Hudson refrain from giving his Companions news of Royal Arch Masonry in England because that Grand Chapter controls but the Royal Arch Degree, or will he exclude a notice of the proceedings of the Grand Chapter of Scotland because it controls degrees unknown to us ; and further, will he now drop the Grand Chapter of Canada because she has dropped our petted ‘ protege,’ the Past Master’s Degree ? ”

Reviewing Canada for 1894, Comp. Williams continues to defend the position taken by him when he recommended recognition of Victoria. We will not say that his course jeopardized the happy relations existing between Ohio and ourselves, although it may be admitted that even Canadians have feelings. In view of the frequent expositions of the situation and the attitude of other Grand Chapters, including the General Grand, the position assumed and maintained by our worthy Companion may pardonably be likened to that of the Irish juryman who bewailed the obstinacy of his eleven colleagues.

In 1892 Comp. Williams so understood the matter that at his instance Ohio opened its strong arms to the distant little stranger. Two years later the General Grand High Priest having weighed Canada’s position in the premises, held that it should preclude consideration of the solicited recognition of Victoria at that Convocation of General Grand Chapter, and the august body he presided over agreed with him. Comp. Williams, however, had taken the leap and he could not gracefully recede. Here is what he says :

“ Nearly nine pages are covered by the report of the Superintendent of the Australian District, in which he shows much more ambition to see prosperity attend Canadian Chapters located in Victoria by the Grand Chapter of Canada than was ever shown in that direction before the organization of the Supreme Grand Chapter therein. He appears quite willing

that his Chapters be received into the Supreme Grand Chapter provided that body will change its regulations to suit his views.

While the Committee on the Condition of Capitular Masonry touched upon a number of matters in reports from other districts, no mention of this appears. No reference is made to Victorian Chapters or Companions, except that a number of Past Ranks were conferred on Companions thereof, the refusal of the Grand Chapter to warrant a Chapter working under dispensation therein, and the quotation, without comment, by R. E. Comp. Henry Robertson in his report on Correspondence of the views we expressed in 1893 with reference to the mistake made by his Grand Chapter in planting Chapters in Victoria.

The more we study this question, the more firmly becomes our belief that it was a great mistake on the part of the Grand Chapter of Canada to plant Chapters at all in Victoria, and a greater one to plant others after the organization of the Supreme Grand Chapter therein."

Comp. Williams has had further opportunity to study the question, and a recent incident in the City of Melbourne will have furnished an instructive object lesson. For obvious reasons the Committee on the Condition of Capitular Masonry refrained from comment, and the Correspondence chairman was similarly silent. No such accusation can be aimed at the reports of the succeeding year which announced the long-looked or result of Canada's action in Australia.

Now that the difficulty is so happily adjusted, it may not be out of place to say here for our good Companion's edification, that, had Canada or some other colonial Grand Chapter refrained from planting Chapters in that division of Australia in answer to the frequent appeals of neglected and ill-used Companions, the Grand Chapter of Ohio would have waited many years before the opportunity to recognize a Grand Chapter in Victoria would have been afforded it.

M. E. Comp. Harding's address he calls :

"A plain business paper, destitute of rhetorical flourishes, but full of good common sense. It sets forth an account of his official acts, which were many. He recorded no decisions. He had made many visits, and his notations indicate that Capitular Masonry in his province is in a healthy condition."

Jacob H. Bromwell, Cincinnati, Grand High Priest ;
Charles C. Kiefer, Urbana, Grand Secretary.

Oregon.

Chapters, 27 ; Members, 1,290.

In a neatly printed volume of some two hundred and fifty-five pages the proceedings and reports of the Thirty-sixth Annual Convocation of Grand Chapter are set forth. The meeting was held in the City of Portland, on the 8th and 9th of June, 1896, Grand officers and representatives of twenty-three Chapters being registered. Among the Grand Representatives, Canada's ambassador does not appear.

M. E. Comp. John Milton Hodson, Grand High Priest, who is also the author of the Correspondence report, welcomed the Companions in a thoughtful and practical address :

"In the world of heart and mind there is a want, a void, a wish for higher life, a constant desire for a closer companionship a more binding fellowship between ourselves, and in the sum of human culture and happiness mingles all those elements of aspiration, hope, love, fraternity. These desires are the foundation stones upon which the ancient fathers reared the superstructure of Masonry, and wheresoever her shrines have been erected, there has been the thought of reverence and duty toward the Father of the Universe and the binding ties drawing us in closer union."

He considered it a cause for congratulation that the returns for the year showed a gain, and that peace reigned throughout the jurisdiction. The receipt of a General Grand Chapter ritual for each Chapter and their distribution were duly noted.

"Business complications," beyond his power to control, prevented visitations to the subordinate Chapters. It is remarkable how often these things will interfere to effect the year in which a Companion takes the chief office. One or other demands attention. We once heard of a person of unsteady habits who, on being remonstrated with by anxious friends, replied, with as serious mien as his then condition would admit of: "Gentlemen, I 'preciate your kindness. Business is business, as you say, and I assure you that when I find whiskey interfering with business, why, I let business go

to hades." He intended to put it the other way, but the *lapsus linguae* hit the bull's-eye.

Comp. Hodson's devotion to Capitular Masonry, however, is not to be measured by the pleasant duty of visiting subordinate Chapters. The files of Oregon's proceedings are eloquent testimony to his value. For years he has labored as her faithful Correspondent, and has done more to acquaint the Capitular world with her doings and status than could an army of passing chieftains. That he should be elevated to the highest office, and at the same time requested to retain his old position, was at once a compliment to the gifted Companion, and an evidence of the sound sense of Grand Chapter.

He issued two dispensations for new Chapters, at Hood River and Grant's Pass, both of which secured charters; and waived the statutory requirements in a number of cases which he deemed urgent.

The Grand Representative system does not find favor in his sight, and for a reason as singular to us as it is new:

"My experience in managing our diplomatic relations has not had a tendency to increase my regard for the system of interchange of representatives between Grand Chapters, but on the contrary has confirmed the opinion that it is not only useless but liable to cause ill feeling among Companions where no strife or envy should exist, and nothing warmer than the emulation as to who can best work and best agree should ever be engendered."

Several of the subordinate Chapters, interpreting a law of the Grand Lodge as applicable, exempted certain Companions from the payment of dues, carried them as "honorary" members, and paid no dues to Grand Chapter for them. The Grand High Priest recommended Grand Chapter to bring them up short by "pronouncing the law upon the subject."

As was the case in our own Grand Chapter two years ago, attention was called to the presence of "the only living representative of those who first planted the ensign of Capitular Masonry on the Northwest coast—our venerable and highly esteemed Companion, Past Grand High Priest James R. Bayley."

To the prayer which Grand Chapter offered for his health and long life, we fervently respond, "So mote it be."

The venerable Companion, in 1879, wrote a history of the Grand Chapter, and a resolution was adopted authorizing the re-publication of it with the current proceedings.

The matter of honorary membership referred to in the Grand High Priest's address, was disposed of in a resolution of the Jurisprudence Committee and adopted by Grand Chapter.

"That any Royal Arch Mason in good standing who has been a contributing member to any Subordinate Chapter in this Grand Jurisdiction for twenty years or more, may, at the option of the particular Chapter of which he is then a member, be relieved from all Chapter dues, and that this Grand Chapter relieve the Subordinate Chapter from the payment of Grand Chapter dues on such member."

The following was also adopted :

"That it is the sense of this Grand Chapter that every brother who comes within the vails should come of his own free will and accord, and it is recommended that Chapters should discourage petitions from brethren immediately after their taking the Master Mason's degree, and that the solicitation of candidates is strongly condemned."

To the "immediately after taking" we are disposed to subscribe, but are not in accord with the general sentiment at all, holding strongly to the opinion that the intelligent and worthy Master Mason should be invited, in due time, to seek for that which he knows he has not received, are we not enjoined as Most Excellent Masters to aid and encourage uninformed brethren? Moreover, it is not an encouragement to something distinct. The R. A. is part and parcel of what he already possesses. The superstructure commenced at his initiation can only receive its cap stone in the Royal Arch. Why then leave to him to wonder, and perhaps wander? If he is content to remain with and study what he has received, it will not render him a bit the less a Mason and a good man; at the same time

to withhold from him the necessity of completing his knowledge is diametrically opposed to our plain duty. If he is neglected, he will probably be found straying into paths that may be attractive but are not direct. To apply the same caution and reserve to a Master Mason that you would to a profane, is not common sense, neither is it fraternal.

A resolution was adopted debarring any Chapter in future from selecting for its title the name of any living Mason. A decision to be heartily commended.

One hundred dollars was appropriated, by resolution, "for the use and benefit of the Council of High Priesthood." The resolution does not define this appropriation as a loan, but we presume it was, it could hardly have been otherwise.

Comp. Hodson's report on Correspondence is not the first of his by many that we have perused with genuine pleasure, although it is the first that has come to our hands since taking up the Canadian quill. As usual, it is replete with instruction, much of which we would have been glad to retail for the benefit of our Companions here, but we find that we have already over-stayed the limit of a first visit.

Observing Canada's list of officers he says several of them "would be entirely without place in an American Chapter, and for the life of us we cannot see what real use can be found for them even by the inventive genius of our Canadian brethren."

Much ado about nothing again. On comparing the list with that of Oregon we find that the difference is just half a dozen, and of these four are "Stewards," whose usefulness at certain functions cannot be lightly estimated.

Talking of officers being out of place, it has frequently occurred to the writer that a Grand Chaplain on the list of an American Chapter is superfluous. To employ a Companion in that capacity is a reflection on the piety and attainments of the High Priest, whose sacred office should protect him from the implied slight. It is fair to presume that no Companion would be exalted to the holy office of Grand High Priest who did not possess the necessary qualifications.

"A document worthy of the source," is how he introduces the address of M. E. Comp. J. Ross Robertson, not Robinson, by the way. We never did know one of that ilk who could patiently endure being so miscalled. Probably the Smith-Brown-Jones association has something to do with it.

He says the reduction in fees is "too cheap to be good," and is not surprised that at that rate, short rituals are in demand.

Referring to M. E. Comp. Henry Robertson's retirement, he says :

"He has always maintained a select and high standing, proving faithful to his trust and worthy of the high consideration in which he is held by his Companions. Companion George J. Bennett made the report and it is well worth reading, but he failed to get far enough into the mine to reach Oregon."

Not our fault, Companion. The omission was regretted, but we could not repair it.

Of our opinion that the Past Master "when it goes, it goes for good," he adds :

"Now, there is some style about that ; when you start out to kill anything, keep on until it is dead beyond resuscitation."

And to our remark that the Companions of the United States "will be happier still when the Past Master is erased from the Chapter curriculum altogether," he says :

"Which reminds us of the story of the fox which had lost its tail, going around persuading its mates that a tail was a useless appendage any way."

Reynard is usually credited with being sly. Comp. Hodson's fox possessed a degree of sense and reasoning power foreign to the species. Any other fox under the circumstances would have immediately sought the nearest vulpine perruquier and had himself fitted with the latest thing in false terminal adornments and a five years' warrant against detection. Thus completed, he would have gone about among his fellows arguing the

genuineness of an article which all the world could see was spurious, his own vanity and lack of "hind-sight" blinding him, of course, to the flaws so plain to others. By and 'bye the foxes thus furnished will awaken to the absurdity of their appearance, and then there will be such a flinging away of bogus appendages that the woods will be full of them.

J. H. Irvine, Canby, Grand High Priest; James F. Robinson, Eugene, Grand Secretary.

Pennsylvania.

Chapters, 120; Members, 15,957.

On the 23rd November, 1795, the Grand Chapter of Pennsylvania was formed. On the 23rd November, 1895, the hundredth anniversary was fittingly celebrated not only in Philadelphia, but in the Chapters throughout the State. The Special Communication of Grand Chapter to mark this important epoch was an eventful one. The celebration was divided into three sections—reception, communication and banquet—and each was regulated by a special committee, whose careful work made the whole a grand success. Historical addresses covering periods of twenty-five years were delivered.

M. E. Comp. S. C. Perkins took the first and explained that at its organization, and for many years subsequently, the Chapters "worked not by virtue of warrants issued by a Grand Chapter, but under warrants of individual lodges issued by the Grand Lodge."

"The warrant of a Lodge was spread open in the Chapter, having been obtained from the Worshipful Master of the particular Lodge to which the Chapter was attached, and returned after the Chapter had been opened and the work performed. And in the organization of the Grand Chapter of Pennsylvania, upon the 23rd of November, 1795, after a conference between the officers of the Grand Lodge and the various chiefs, as they were then called, of the subordinate Chapters which had been working under warrants granted by the Grand Lodge to Blue Lodges, it was ordained that the Grand Chapter should consist of certain officers, then known as first, second and third Grand Chiefs; and the Right Worshipful Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania was ex-officio, if he were a Royal Arch Mason, the First Grand Chief of the Grand Chapter

as then constituted. If it so happened that the Right Worshipful Grand Master was not a Royal Arch Mason, then the office was held, for the time being at the meetings of the Grand Chapter, and in any action that the Grand Chapter might wish to take, by the second Grand Chief who was acting at that time.

"From that time on the relations between the Royal Arch Mason and the Blue Lodge Mason, as held by the Grand Lodge and by the Grand Chapter, were of the most fraternal and interesting character. It was laid down as fundamental, and not to be departed from, that there were but four regular degrees in ancient Craft Masonry, namely, the Entered Apprentice, the Fellow Craft, and the Master Mason, with the fourth degree of the Holy Royal Arch, which was conceded to be a part really of the Master Mason's degree; but was from the time that the Royal Arch was introduced, considered as a fourth degree; and there, we have always held in Pennsylvania, ancient Masonry stopped; it is not my province to enter into any reason for this, but that is the fact."

The other historical addresses were in charge of M. E. Comps. W. J. Kelly, G. W. Kendrick, Jun., and J. S. Barber respectively. An elaborate programme of music and addresses by distinguished visitors followed. The banquet was held in Library Hall and the menu was printed on hand-made paper manufactured over one hundred years ago. Handsome souvenirs were also distributed. The expenses of the centennial anniversary amounted to \$1,913.45.

The usual quarterly communications in March, June and September, and the Annual Grand Communication in December were held in addition.

M. E. Comp. Ezra S. Bartlett presided at each, the business being largely of local interest. He constituted Kane Chapter under very pleasant auspices. Among his decisions are the following:

"Subordinate Chapters are not prohibited from conferring the M. M. M. and M. E. M. degrees upon the same candidates at the same meeting.

No Companion can become a permanent member of Grand Chapter unless he has served one full (Masonic) year, as High Priest of a Chapter in this jurisdiction, and to do this he must be installed on or before St. John the Evangelist's Day.

It is the duty of the High Priest to instal his successor and confer upon him the Order of High Priesthood, which is a part of the ceremony of installation. When it is done by the D. D. Grand High Priest it is by courtesy alone, it is not a part of

his duty. The Grand High Priest should qualify himself so that with or without the presence of the District Deputy his successor can be legally installed.

The ballot box must contain as many black and as many white balls as the members desire to and can use, and are only limited in number to that extent.

It is not permissible for an installed officer to resign, either his office or membership, during the term for which he was elected and installed.

A Subordinate Chapter has neither the right nor the power either through its by-laws or by resolution, to adopt a distinctive Past High Priest's Jewel. The P. H. P's Jewel is as described in Sec. 63, page 27, of the Constitution.

No action can be taken by a Chapter upon the petition of an applicant for the degrees and membership, who has already petitioned another Chapter, until after the first petition is withdrawn.

The High Priest is the only responsible head of the Chapter, and it is his duty to see that the Secretary complies fully with the requirements of the Grand Chapter.

No Companion can have more than one elective office in a Subordinate Chapter at the same time, except that the Secretary or Treasurer (if a Past High Priest) may be elected its representative to the Grand Chapter, or the High Priest may be elected to fill a vacancy."

Contemplated visitations were prevented by "circumstances beyond control." The Philadelphian Chapters he saw at work and praises them. The District Deputy carefully looked after the rest.

As before, the report on Correspondence is the work of five Companions, M. E. Comp. H. H. Henderson having charge of the early portion of the alphabet down to and including the D's. From his introduction we extract:

"In our last introduction we took occasion to say a good deal about the misappropriation of the Past Master's degree by the Chapter. We are glad to report that the Grand Chapter of Canada has restored it to its proper sphere of usefulness, for that it has a sphere, and is useful, we all know; and it is now under the control of the Grand Lodge of that Province. Every year some of the Grand Chapters of the United States express the opinion that it should be discarded from the Capitular system, and those who favor retaining it there are few and are becoming fewer.

The question of dependent membership and the propriety of Chapters appearing in public to perform these ceremonies which have hitherto been performed by Lodges is being freely discussed.

Concerning the first, there are many who uphold it and some who condemn it. Concerning the second, the opinion is almost universal that Royal Arch Masons should not appear abroad as such, and that those ceremonies peculiar to the Craft which have to be performed in the light of the sun and in the gaze of men, should be performed by Lodges of Master Masons.

We have decided opinions on these subjects, and those who read the following pages cannot fail to discover what they are."

That he has decided opinions and is no way bashful about expressing them, is illustrated in his review of Arizona, wherein he lashes the Correspondent for certain flippant remarks and "insinuations" concerning a Grand High Priest's disposition of the altar, and which he characterizes as a "wilful and premeditated distortion of facts."

Under Canada he gives a couple of pages to a general review of M. E. Comp. J. Ross Robertson's address.

"Years ago the Grand Lodge and Grand Chapter of Canada met at different times and we believe in different places. It was thought the attendance would be better and more interest manifested if they met together, which was carried into effect, and for fifteen years they have met during the same week and in the same city. The Grand Z. says the average number of Chapters represented is about the same that it was ten years ago, and a review of the proceedings does not show the advantages anticipated. An opinion prevails that their meeting in the same week as the Grand Lodge lessens their importance and obscures their identity, and decreases the interest, by reason of the relatively greater questions which occupy the mind of the Grand Lodge. The foregoing is exactly contrary to our experience. Our Grand Chapter used to meet one month previous to our Grand Lodge. Years ago a change was made and now we meet the day following the Grand Lodge with the result that our meetings are much larger than they were and much more interest is shown. We like it so well that we will not resume the old way."

He does not agree with the Grand Z's views on the Grand Representative system. Pennsylvania, he says, exchanges representatives, "but personally we do not think them either ornamental or useful."

He quotes "with pleasure" the clause of the address dealing with the elimination of the Past Master's degree. "Another Grand Chapter has taken the sensible view and put it where it belongs."

"We congratulate the Grand Chapter upon their most sensible action in abolishing the Past Master's degree from their system. Plenty of other Grand Chapters want to do the same thing, but cannot. The heaven is working, and in time will produce a commotion which will give good results. It requires time, but we believe is sure to come."

He notes the retirement of M. E. Comp. Henry Robertson from the Correspondence arena, and says, "we miss the familiar name."

"This year he stands aside for Companion Geo. J. Bennett. He says it is his 'first offence, and probably the last.' We hope not, for he does not write like a novice. He comments freely and intelligently on all subjects that come under his observation, and while we do not subscribe to all he says, we give him credit for honest intentions and courtesy at all times, which last quality reviewers do not often exercise. He gives the Past Master's degree a whack whenever he finds it, and he finds it pretty often.

He devotes five and one-half pages to Pennsylvania, quoting liberally from the addresses of Grand High Priest Tennis and Bartlett and from our introduction and review. His review is a kind one and we have no fault to find with it."

Comp. Henderson closes his review of Canada with a strong rebuke directed at Canada's printer. He says "the book does not look as if a proof-reader ever saw it."

"Some may think we should pass this in silence, but we think differently. We think that a book to some extent is interesting as its appearance is attractive, and that the style in which it is put before its readers is as open to criticism as its contents."

The only way the printer can hit back is by disarming the critic. If he gets another such chance there won't be a bit left of the chapel, devil and all.

"Though an angel should write, still 'tis devils must print."

That he is down on public installations is witnessed in his remarks to Colorado:

"What difference does it make whether the men admitted were members of the Lodge or not, if they were not Royal Arch

Masons, and ladies were admitted who certainly were not members of the Lodge. He might as well have thrown open the doors and admitted Tom, Dick and Harry, Polly, Bet and Sue. Most Excellent Companion Burnand might have made an enviable record for himself if he had had the courage of his convictions and had said, with kind firmness, 'The landmarks of our fraternity will not be violated by such an exhibition during my administration.'

Pennsylvania has no Past Master's degree in the Chapter, but their method of "Passing to the chair" in the Blue Lodge has been held up to ridicule so frequently by reviewers, that we take the opportunity of reproducing Comp. Clarke's explanation of it, which he gives under Texas :

"The practice of passing to the chair is as old as Royal Arch Masonry in this jurisdiction, which very considerably ante-dates the formation of any Grand Chapter on this continent; hence, being 'sticklers for ancient rules and usages,' we adhere to it.

The Lodge of its own authority does not pass any one to the chair. The Master Mason who desires to be passed to the chair of his Lodge, which is simply to be installed as W. M. of the Lodge temporarily signs a petition addressed to the District Deputy Grand Master of the District in which the Lodge is held, to that effect. He must be a Master Mason of at least six months standing. His petition must be recommended by the W. M. and Wardens of his Lodge, and it must be accompanied with a fee of ten dollars, no part of which becomes the property of his Lodge; it belongs to the funds of the Grand Lodge. The District Deputy Grand Master, as the representative of the Grand Master, and acting for him, grants the dispensation if deemed proper, sending it to the Secretary of the Lodge. It is read at the next stated meeting, and a motion is made to act under it. If the motion is adopted, all the brethren present, not Past Masters, retire, and the brother is installed temporarily as Worshipful Master of his Lodge. It is entirely under the control of the Grand Master and his Deputies acting for him, and the Lodge cannot pass any one to the chair without a dispensation as above.

Before any Grand Chapters were formed in the United States this practice was in force, the Grand Master then exercising his prerogative, and he still retains it; but for the sake of convenience in so large a jurisdiction, he appoints District Deputy Grand Masters to act for him within certain limits."

From the conclusion to this splendid report we extract the following, which should be read and pondered the continent over :

"To our minds the two crying evils of the day, against

which our Grand Chapter should raise its voice in protest, are public installations and printed rituals. In treating of these, your committee desires to speak in no uncertain terms. One of our predecessors, in his report, has well said; 'Another sign of the times, which we deplore, is the opening up of our most solemn ceremonies to the gaze of the profane world. Not only in the Chapter, but even in the Lodge, this unfortunate innovation is being practiced, and an institution whose genius it is to celebrate its ceremonies and mysteries behind closed doors, is made to contribute to the entertainment of a curious public. The natural result of this is to loosen the bond of secrecy which has done so much to hold the fraternity together as a unit. It begets freedom of expression, not only in speech, but in writing. It is by no means rare to find in reports and addresses, words and phrases, printed in bold characters that should be used only with the greatest caution.

These remarks will apply to the twin evils mentioned, and appeal to us in trumpet tones to hold fast to the faith."

Ezra S. Bartlett, Philadelphia, Grand High Priest ;
Charles Cary, Philadelphia, Grand Secretary.

Quebec.

Chapters, 11 ; Members, 487.

In the Chapter Hall of the new Montreal Temple, on the afternoon of the 28th January, 1895, the Nineteenth Annual Convocation assembled with all the Grand officers but one, and representatives of every Chapter present.

The Grand Z, M. E. Comp. E. T. D. Chambers, presided for the second time. Opening his interesting address, he congratulated the Companions on their place of meeting :

" This magnificent Temple in which we have assembled is an honor to Masonry and to Montreal, and I shall never fail to remember with pride and pleasure that it has fallen to my lot to preside at the first Annual Convocation of a Grand Masonic Body held within its walls. Long may this splendid structure endure, and may it prove a centre of ever widening usefulness and influence for good, in the enlightened and progressive community in whose beautiful city it occupies so conspicuous a place."

He thus reverts to events of the period, and his sentiments command a responsive echo the wide country over :

"Peace and prosperity have prevailed throughout our jurisdiction since our last Annual Convocation. It has occurred to many of us, I have no doubt, within the last few weeks, that we have unconsciously acquired the habit of speaking of peace—national and international, as well as Masonic peace—as a matter-of-fact commodity for which no special gratitude is due. May the lessons of the past month not be thrown away upon us, and may our thankfulness for present and prospective peace go out from full and grateful hearts to Him who alone can still the storms of human passion and the murmurs of self-will, and whose blessing has rested upon the mighty Empire of which we are proud to form a part, that there are no terrors for her in national isolation, nor yet in studied affronts, whether intended to cater to the prejudices of a hostile democracy upon one continent, or to feed the warlike passions of vain-glorious legions upon another."

He visited all the Chapters of the jurisdiction outside Montreal, "sickness and sore bereavement" preventing his journeying to that city as he intended. He consecrated the Chapter at Mount Sutton under the most favorable auspices. The net gain of the year is fifteen.

"By no means a bad showing in view of the influences that constantly militate against Masonry in Quebec and the depressing influences of another bad business year."

The inroads of death lead him to refer most touchingly to his own bereavement, a loss for which his Companions in Canada, who have learned to know and esteem him, send out their heartfelt sympathy:

"Five weeks ago to-day I knelt by the bedside of a beloved son who but a few days before had completed his twenty-first year. I endured the indescribable pang of watching the gradual yielding up of the soul of our dear child to the God who gave it. Most deeply, therefore, can I, and do I, sympathize with those who have been bereaved, and from the membership of this Grand Chapter will go out, I do not hesitate to say, an earnest expression of sorrow for their loss, and of hope that the God of Comfort will be their solace."

Waiver of jurisdiction was granted in the case of three brethren desiring to obtain the degrees in Carleton Chapter, Ottawa, under the Grand Chapter of Canada, which induces him to express the hope that their own Ottawa district may soon possess a Chapter.

He refused the application for waiver submitted by Nova Scotia in the case of a Master Mason holding membership in a Montreal Lodge and a resident of that city.

The reports of the Grand Superintendents displayed, on the part of these officers, painstaking and earnest effort to accomplish their duty.

The Grand Treasurer's statement showed a balance to next year of \$451.86, and the Benevolent Fund, \$709.44.

The Committee on Grievances and Appeals had a painful case to deal with. Serious charges were laid by his Chapter against R. E. Comp. S. Lebourveau, who recently held the position of Grand Third Principal of the Grand Chapter.

"The offence was a violation of the law of the land as well as a violation of Masonic law. Your Committee do not deem it necessary to enter into the particulars painful to the Companions in this jurisdiction. It is a matter of profound regret to your Committee to be compelled to take action against one who, until quite recently, stood so high in the Order.

The charge was clearly proven, and the Chapter, after due trial, adjudged the accused to be guilty of un-Masonic conduct, and voted his exclusion from the rites and privileges of R. A. Masonry.

Your Committee approve the action of the Chapter and recommend the expulsion of R. E. Comp. Lebourveau as asked for."

Another case was that of Comp. Henry Haynes, of Mount Horeb Chapter, who was also expelled, he having been convicted and imprisoned for the crime of arson.

M. E. Comp. Will H. Whyte again takes up the reportorial quill, and prefaces his admirable review of the Capitular Craft with a few thoughts suggested by occurrences of a year ago :

"'On earth, peace, good will towards men.' With this refrain almost sounding in our ears with the fast approaching Christmastide, as we write come ominous and threatening rumors of war, and we ponder, can it be true that even an idea exists that it is in the range of possibilities that we Cana-

dians are threatened and may have to, at almost the commencement of the twentieth century, defend our hearts and homes from neighbors connected by many ties of kindred and association; and for what? Our love for the 'old flag?' Our father's flag? Ah well! political demagogues may blow and bluster, but we have an abiding faith that sober second thoughts among the earnest thinkers of the nations will soon assert themselves. The thought likewise arises, will not the vast army of the fraternity of Freemasons on both sides of the mighty water have some influence over the Jingo, will not their weight be felt on the side of peace and good will, or is the much vaunted influence of the Order on the welfare of mankind all a myth? We trust not."

Under Canada Comp. Whyte quotes freely from the Grand Z's address.

"He is well known as a hard working and untiring official and member of the Craft, and faithfully kept up his reputation by visiting seventy of his Subordinates. He is particularly severe, and rightly so, upon those who accept office and then fail to do their duty."

He rejoices at the settlement of the Australian difficulty; expresses regret at the retirement of M. E. Comp. Henry Robertson, and has a kindly welcome for the new comer:

"While we regret Comp. Robertson's retirement for a long association's sake, he being almost the oldest member of the Capitular Reporting Guild, we must admit Canada has found a worthy successor in Comp. Bennett. His report is a masterly effort and we perused it with much pleasure and interest."

He comments at length upon our remarks touching the mild irritation which the titles "Grand Lodge of Canada," and "Grand Chapter of Canada," create outside of Ontario.

"Comp. Bennett says he has no corns, but our remarks on the nomenclature of our Mother Grand Chapter 'Canada' (in Ontario) evidently struck home. He says the name 'Grand Lodge of Canada' sticks like a burr. So it does, Companion, but what is there to prevent the Grand Lodge of Quebec altering its name to the 'Grand Lodge of Canada in Quebec?'"

Nothing, Companion, but the filial sentiment which

should actuate the loving offspring of a good parent. Surely you would not countenance a daughter's inclination to take from her mother that which rightly belonged to the latter many years before she was born! It is really sad to observe how precocious children are in these days.

“ But he that filches from me my good name
Robs me of that which not enriches him
And makes me poor indeed,”

He continues :

“ Both Grand Lodges formerly composed the Grand Lodge of Canada, under United Canada before confederation, and we have quite as much right to use the name of ‘Canada’ in Quebec. All the Grand Bodies in the Dominion are known by their Province appellation but Ontario, and it is at times somewhat difficult explaining away the impression many strangers have, that the Grand Lodge and Grand Chapter of Canada are not General Grands for the Dominion, but the Grand Bodies only for the Province of Ontario. However, we of Quebec have a deep affection for and pride in the progress of our Mother Grand Chapter.”

All of which we cheerfully endorse, noting also the references under his reviews of other jurisdictions. Especially are we assured of Quebec's love for her mother, but if there is ground for complaint it is as well to look into the origin of it and apply the remedy, if any, right there. Thirty years ago there was nobody to object to the title “Grand Chapter of Canada.” The name was hers by right of birth and possession, and the Capitular world recognized and acknowledged it. The difficulty was occasioned by subsequent formations not attributable to any error of the original body. That the situation is open to all the possibilities of confusion suggested we are willing to admit, but how, without violating tradition and the dignity contributed by age and strength, any change is to be effected at this end of the discussion, it is difficult to see.

Comp. Singleton, of the District of Columbia, having furnished a lengthy treatise in support of the contention that the High Priest and not the King should be the chief officer of the Chapter, Comp. Whyte thus replies :

“ And yet, Companion Singleton, even after your lucid explanation of the American Royal Arch, we are not convinced of the error of our ways. We have not the slightest objection to the nomenclature of your officers if they fit in with the idea of your ritual. But we think the placing of the officers in both the American and English rituals is not in strict keeping with Biblical history. You call your second officer the King. Zerubabel was never a King. He was, it is true, the lineal head of the house of David. He was the son of Shealtiel, and grandson of Johoiachim the King who was carried captive into Babylon, and was, as we call him, a ‘ Prince of the People.’ He was appointed by Cyrus—‘ *Tirshatha*,’ or Governor of Judea, was granted cedars from Lebanon and money for the rebuilding of the Temple and the holy vessels given back to him. Our degree relates to the building of the second Temple, and the only authorized party at the head of that holy and sacred enterprise was Zerubbabel the Governor. Turn to the volume of the Sacred Law and the record in Ezra and Haggai and Zechariah, shows that the Governor was assisted in the work of rebuilding by Joshua, the son of Josedecl the High Priest, and aided and encouraged by Haggai the Prophet. The latter is always called a Prophet, never a Scribe. See Haggai I : 1 and 12 ; II : 2 ; Zec. IV : 9, says ‘ the hands of Zerubbabel have laid the foundation of this house, his hands shall also finish it.’ These three worthies above mentioned were the heads of the Jewish Sanhedrim, and Zerubbabel held full sway and authority by the decree of Cyrus. We think also, an error was made in the early rituals of the English Arch Degree when they placed Haggai the Prophet second and Joshua the High Priest third ; to our mind they should have been reversed. All through Holy Writ the record shows Zerubbabel builded, aided by Joshua the High Priest, and assisted and encouraged by Haggai the Prophet. Solomon the King built the first Temple ; Zerubbabel, Prince and Governor, built the second.”

From his conclusion we gather that Comp. Whyte relinquishes his seat at the round table to let Comp. Chambers in again. 'Twas ever thus. We are glad, however, to have had the opportunity of a brief sojourn with him, and reiterate our gratitude for the kindly and fraternal welcome accorded to the stranger.

“ Welcome ever smiles,
And farewell goes out sighing.”

J. B. Tressider, Montreal, Grand Z ; Will H. Whyte,
Montreal, Grand Scribe E.

Rhode Island.

Chapters, 10; Members, 2,347.

The praiseworthy suggestions to procure and publish with the printed proceedings the portraits of Past Grand High Priests is being faithfully carried out. Two of these embellish the pages of the volume for 1895, viz., M. E. Comps S. G. Stiness, 1882-3, and George H. Kenyon, 1891-92. The former died November 5th, 1894.

The Ninety-seventh Annual Convocation was held at Providence, March 12th, 1895, Grand High Priest Albert L. Anthony presiding.

He reported a peaceful reign, nothing in the way of appeal or grievance having touched him.

Among his decisions was one where two candidates in a Chapter were balloted for. One was taken and the other "left." The accepted one declined to come forward without his friend, and the latter having waited the twelvemonth petitioned again. The question was asked, whether in the event of his being accepted, the one who held over would be permitted to go in with him. The Grand High Priest replied, that if no objection was raised on the case being stated, he might be admitted to the degrees.

The question of a Newport Chapter on behalf of a naval brother who belonged to a Washington Lodge, received the reply that waiver of jurisdiction was not necessary in the case of Master Masons in good standing in the U.S. Army or Navy.

He visited each Chapter in the jurisdiction, one or more times, with beneficial results. His three officers were likewise active in like respect.

He suggested the appointment of a historian, in view of the approaching celebration of the centennial.

The Companions appointed therefor presented eloquent memorials to the fraternal dead.

Comp. Edwin Baker, who for twenty-four years has had the position of Grand Musical Director, was by

unanimous vote made a permanent member of Grand Chapter.

The customary annual dinner was duly partaken of and the Grand Stewards were authorized to provide for the next year's feast.

M. E. Comp. Rev. Henry W. Rugg, furnishes a report on Correspondence which embraces in twenty pages a general review of the Capitular situation and the leading questions presented or discussed. We gladly reproduce a few extracts from the brief but comprehensive paper prepared by this eloquent Companion.

"Freemasonry will flourish in every department of its organic life just as long as it can command the services of wise and resolute rulers. Its greatest danger is that incompetent men may press their way to the front, and exercise an official influence which cannot be easily or quickly counteracted.

The reports of Committees on Correspondence furnish instructive and interesting reading. These papers may seem to abound in details of no great value, and to be somewhat monotonous in their announcements of facts and figures relating to the progress of the organizations brought under review ; but that they contain much desired information mingled with excellent sentiments, cannot be doubted.

* * *

In several of the reports which have passed under our notice we have found references to the origin of the Royal Arch degree, and to the first establishment of the Capitular system of Masonry, with less of discrimination between the 'degree' and the 'system,' both in the order of time and otherwise, than would seem desirable. Our thought is that the Royal Arch degree is to be regarded as an evolution of English Freemasonry as historically known since 1717. The degree of the Royal Arch, in substance much the same as now, was known and practiced by the Athol Masons, in England, as early as the year 1756, while there are traditions and suggestions of its use at a considerable earlier date. A well authenticated record of the Masonic Lodge working at Fredericksburg, Va., in the middle of the eighteenth century, contains an entry to this effect: that on December 22nd, 1753, three Master Masons, whose names are given, passed through the ceremonies attending the conferring of the Royal Arch degree.

* * * *

But while the degree was thus recognized, the main features of the present system of Capitular Masonry were unknown. It was not until the last decade of the eighteenth century that the degrees of Mark Master, Past Master, Most Excellent Master were formulated and united with the Royal

Arch degree, to form a distinctive grade in the Masonic system. Doubtless Thomas Smith Webb had considerable to do with the moulding, recasting and arranging of these several degrees, albeit he was not the inventor of them. His work was that of development and extension, resulting in what is now known as the American System of Capitular Masonry."

This statement that Webb was not the fabricator of the Past Master's degree is decidedly new. Most Masonic writers agree to the contrary.

"As would be expected in such papers, the reports which have come to our notice uniformly place great stress on the high rank and essential worth of the Capitular system. It is gratifying to notice this emphasizing of the value of the degrees, especially that of the Royal Arch, than which no other, unless it be that of Master Mason, has associated with it so much of symbolic, historical and religious significance. The Royal Arch Degree has well been termed 'the root, the heart, the very marrow of Freemasonry.' But with all this allowed and urged, and with the statement repeated over and over again that by aid of the Royal Arch degree can a candidate perceive the far reaching and sublime character of our ancient Masonic system, there is still a want of interest and appreciation in the Chapter and its work.

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"It will help still more to maintain Royal Arch Masonry in its justly exalted position, if due attention is given to the conferring the degrees. If officers are intelligent, if they appreciate the lessons and ceremonies in their moral bearing, and if their hearts are in the work, there will be an attractiveness put upon the Chapter that will bind members to that body. It is ignorance and indifference which so often bar the way of prosperity—that ignorance which turns the solemn ceremonials of the Royal Arch Degree into burlesque—that indifference which fastens upon dull minds and makes them incapable of inspiring those whom they attempt to teach and lead."

His pronouncement on the Past Master's degree is worthy of perusal:

"For many years we have not hesitated to express our opinion that the Past Master's degree belongs to the Lodge, and not to the Chapter. It should be under the control of the Grand Lodge. The General Grand Chapter could render no better service to the Royal Craft, in the way of legislation as to this subject, than to set aside the degree—discarding it altogether on the assurance or understanding that the respective Grand Lodges would assume control of a proper or legitimate Past Master's degree. But wherever conferred—under whatsoever

authority—let it not be made a farce, or so used as to leave a disagreeable impression on the mind of an intelligent and sensitive candidate.”

Physical qualifications, dependent membership, the Grand Representative system, and, of course, Rhode Island's relation, or rather non-relation, to the General Grand Chapter, are all subjects ably dealt with by Comp. Rugg.

Albert L. Anthony, Providence, Grand High Priest ;
W. R. Greene, Providence, Grand Secretary.

South Carolina.

Chapters, 21 ; Members, 681.

The historic city of Charleston was again honored with the Annual Convocation, the Eighty-fifth of this old Grand Chapter. M. E. Comp. J. T. Barron presided. Four of the Chapters were unrepresented.

Canada's envoy was not among the Grand Representatives who were announced and received with honors. It was pleasant to note that Iowa's plenipotentiary voiced the responses of the rest. It is safe to say that he will not be numbered among the tares when the husbandman of Anamosa has completed his winnowing.

Nor is it in any spirit of envy that we pause to observe that one of the absentees bears the ambassadorial responsibility of no less than seventeen Grand Chapters. The suggestion is respectfully submitted in the absent one's interest, that the list exhibits three vacancies.

A brief document, but characterized by business, was the Grand High Priest's address. His style is such as to be commended. He makes some practical suggestions with regard to the outlay occasioned by visitation, a subject about which too much delicacy is often exhibited, and he showed an example to his successors in making himself personally acquainted with every Chapter in his jurisdiction.

Most of the Chapters had brought up good material. The officers are familiar with the work, the attendance is larger and more interest is displayed. More-

over, there is an absence of discord, nor had there been any difference of opinion as to necessitate the submission of any question for ruling. A most gratifying state of affairs, yet the Grand High Priest says, "I feel that I cannot report our condition as *entirely* satisfactory."

Grand Secretary Fugle is a hustler. He reported that within thirty days from the Grand Convocation he had received acknowledgment of the printed proceedings, even from some far off western States. We are patiently waiting now for some that might have been printed nearly twelve months ago.

The Grand High Priest drew attention to the favor with which R. E. Comp. Fugle's report on Correspondence was received, and added :

"I trust that the time will never again come when we may feel compelled to discontinue this potent agency for the good of the Craft."

And from the corps generally will be heard a hearty "hear, hear." In a review of fifty-five pages he skims the cream off their labors for the benefit of his Companions.

Of the address of M. E. Comp. J. Ross Robertson, he says it

"Is one that we wish it were in the power of every Grand High Priest to make.

He states that he has visited seventy-seven of the eighty-two Chapters on the roll of the Grand Chapter in this Province, and east of Sault Ste. Marie. His report shows that his visitations have not been merely for pleasure, but with commendable zeal in endeavoring to find out the real state of Capitular Masonry in the Province and to report the same to the Grand Chapter.

We congratulate Canada on the accession of so many new members. May they all prove to be such as shall pass the square of the Supreme Overseer.

With some twenty thousand dollars in her treasury, and such men as M. E. Companion J. Ross Robertson, we think their outlook for continued prosperity bright. 'So mote it be.'"

In his conclusion he prays for more space, and he deserves it. We could not find anything to determine the existing membership, and so accepted last year's

figures, the statistics of four Chapters delinquent being approximated as they were retained.

J. T. Barron, Columbia, Grand High Priest ; Albert E. Fugle, Columbia, Grand Secretary.

South Dakota.

Chapters, 26 ; Members, 1,491.

Six years old and yet this Grand Chapter can turn out a volume of proceedings to make the older ones blush. Within a handsome embossed cover are some two hundred pages of artistic typography, embracing the doings of the Chapter and the report on Correspondence, the latter embellished with pictorial headings for each jurisdiction, the significance whereof is known only to the designer.

Canada for instance, has a simple Ionic column—strength, of course. An old gentleman fondling a scythe rests placidly above Arkansas. Connecticut has the tables of the law, a pretty clear intimation that the “blue” blood of the Nutmeg State is still prepared to boil at even the semblance of levity and that there exists but doubtful welcome for persons whose tastes, like Mr. Kipling’s hero, incline to flippancy.

“Ship me somewhere east of Suez, where the best is like the worst,

Where there arn’t no Ten Commandments an’ a man can raise a thirst.”

An hour glass and an alligator suggestively denote Florida. Over Washington is the alleged true portrait of the good little boy who never, never, told a lie. The ark that bore across the Atlantic the original Friend, is moored above Pennsylvania. Nova Scotia’s hope that Canada will quit masquerading, is happily exemplified by an anchor. Three of its own pretty song birds with the persuasive bill, are perched above New Jersey. Minnesota is given a piece of rope, but not sufficient for an aspiring Minnesotan to hold on to. And Wisconsin possesses the latest development of the fretful porcupine.

Lack of time only interferes to furnish our own hasty solutions of the rest of this enigmatical panorama. We mention the few above, merely to demonstrate to those who may not see the work, that for rare ingenuity and praiseworthy enterprise the far, far West is rapidly distancing the ancient and effete Orient.

M. E. Comp. Louis G. Levoy has already made a record as Correspondent. As Grand High Priest his reputation has been enhanced, and his address to the Sixth Annual Convocation at Pierre, on June 13th, 1895, will do much to create an emulative spirit in his Companions.

Five only of the fourteen Grand officers were present, and the representatives of twenty-four Chapters.

The Grand High Priest visited all the Chapters on the roll, and in detail gives the result of his inspections. Nothing but good can come of such devotion to duty. His ruling in the case of a dispute between two Chapters on the question of violation of jurisdiction, was appealed from by the Chapter against which the decision went, but the Grand High Priest was sustained.

He recommended a strict adherence to the prescribed form for opening and closing; that Grand Chapter undertake the expense of the Grand Secretary's bonds; a regulation to define the status of honorary membership in Chapters, and the appointment of a Grand Lecturer.

He closed a capital address with an Oriental narrative, to which hung a moral of course.

The Finance Committee reported a balance on hand of \$1,449. A resolution of appreciation of the Grand High Priest's efforts was adopted unanimously, and was a well deserved tribute :

" Resolved, That this Grand Chapter feels that it should not close its deliberations without first expressing its high appreciation of the unselfish and enthusiastic administration of its affairs during the past year under the directing hand of our Most Excellent Grand High Priest and Companion, Louis G. Levoy.

Never, in the history of this Grand Body, has its first officer visited and inspected each constituent Chapter in the jurisdiction during the incumbency of his office, and we doubt if any Grand

High Priest of our sister jurisdictions has accomplished a like feat under such difficult and trying circumstances.

That the results of his efforts have, we believe, been of inestimable benefit to the Craft, and we deem it but fitting that his unswerving loyalty and unflagging zeal for the welfare and prosperity of this Grand Body should receive this special recognition at our hands.

Further, that a copy of these resolutions, certified under the great seal be presented to the Most Excellent Companion."

Comp. Levoy's report on Correspondence was characteristically faithful. What there is of value he is careful to grasp, and the whole is completed in a most entertaining manner. Canada for 1895 is generously dealt with.

Holding views against the existence of a General Grand Chapter, which he claims is opposed to the principle upon which the country's institutions are based, he deprecates M. E. Comp. Harding's suggestion touching a similar organization for British North America and advises Canada to "leave well enough alone."

To Comp. Henry Robertson's contention that the unsupported objection of a Companion should not be permitted to bar the advancement of a brother who has already taken one of the degrees, and who possesses, as a member, the same rights and privileges as the objector, he says:

"We differ in the foregoing only as to the membership, the candidate is not in our opinion a member until he has taken all the degrees of the Body in which he is advancing, and consequently has not all the rights and privileges of membership. Yet he has rights, and the mere objection of a brother or Companion should not be enough to stop his advancement, he should be given a chance to vindicate himself by making it necessary for the objector to prefer charges in order to stop his advancement, failing which, the degrees should be conferred as if no objection had been entered."

Harvey J. Rice, Huron, Grand High Priest ; Geo. A. Pettigrew, Flandreau, Grand Secretary.

1896.

Grand Chapter met this year on the 11th June in the city of Huron, with a good attendance of Grand officers and Companions.

The Grand Secretary's report showed a decrease in membership for the first time, and also for the first time a delinquent Chapter.

Grand High Priest Harvey J. Rice delivered an address, which in many respects was a marked contrast to that of his predecessor. He says :

“ My official duties have not been heavy during the year. There have been no grievances or appeals, and it has not been possible for me to make the visitations I had hoped to make.

* * *

I wish I could report to you that all our Chapters were prosperous. In too many instances the report comes up, ‘ we are doing very little work ; ’tis hard to get a quorum.’ What is the trouble and what is the remedy ? are serious questions. In too many cases it arises from the fact that the Chapter is looked upon as a mere stepping stone to enable some to reach something beyond.”

From the above one might suspect that he is gazing into somebody's eye and observes a mote. There is something, however, in this :

“ It has been a source of regret that I have been unable to visit all the Chapters, not alone for the benefit I might possibly have done them, but for the pleasure and benefit I might have received.”

And also in this candid admission :

“ It was with much reluctance that I accepted the charge, and it is with pleasure that I deliver it into other hands.”

The Committee on the Address concludes its report thus, and framed with the foregoing extracts, the combination would make a pretty and effective ensemble :

“ Your Committee cannot close their report without expressing their appreciation of the most eloquent and able address of the M. E. Grand High Priest and his faithful efforts in the

promotion of those grand principles that underlie the superstructure of Capitular Masonry, and which has made his administration of the affairs of the Grand Chapter of South Dakota a complete success."

O tempora ! O mores !

One of the Grand High Priest's decisions was as follows :

"Question. An applicant was elected to take the Chapter degrees in 1893 and was notified of his election, and on several occasions sent word to the Chapter that he would be present, and, although special meetings were called for the purpose of conferring the Degree, he failed to avail himself of the opportunity, but finally asked to have the fee returned. Can the Chapter refund it ?

Answer. No. The Chapter fulfilled its part of the contract."

The Jurisprudence Committee endorsed this in the following words :

"While it is a maxim of Masonic equity that the fees for the degrees should not be retained unless the petitioner receives the degrees, yet in the case reported the petitioner has most justly forfeited all right and equity."

Not being cognizant of South Dakota's law on the matter, it is difficult to question the decision. If the acceptance of the candidate's fee and application, and subsequent ballot on same, is there defined as the Chapter's end of the contract, then it is all right ; but at first blush it would appear that the Chapter was in possession of money for which the owner had not received a *quid pro quo*. Granted that the applicant's conduct was irritating to the Companions, may it not still be possible that after making application he discovered some good reason for hesitation, and from motives of delicacy refrained from explaining it ? We know of a case where the applicant discovered that the Chapter contained a member who had done his family serious monetary injury. He put off coming forward time and again, secretly hoping that that member would square himself by making restitution. Not so, however, and though the brother was silent as to his reason for failing to show up, the Chapter did not feel justified in retaining his fee.

The germ of an unpleasant controversy is the following clause of the Jurisprudence Committee's report :

" Your Committee deeply regrets the invasion of the territory of this M. E. Grand Chapter by a Chapter in the Grand Jurisdiction of Nebraska, and the uncourteous action of the Grand High Priest of our sister jurisdiction in failing to reply to the protests made by our M. E. Grand High Priest. We recommend that the matter be referred to the M. E. Grand High Priest elected at this Convocation for further action expressing the hope that the matter may be promptly and properly adjusted."

Grand representatives will please govern themselves and act accordingly. The following resolution was adopted :

" Whereas, It is the sense of this Grand Chapter that the general work of the Craft as well as the general interest of the Companions in Capitular work will be largely enhanced by creating a closer touch and more active correspondence between this Grand Chapter and the Grand Chapters of other jurisdictions, through our various Grand Representatives of said Grand Chapters throughout the world ; and,

Whereas, The absence of any reports of some of the said Grand Representatives either formally or informally for a long period of years shows quite clearly an inactivity that is detrimental rather than beneficial to the Order : therefore be it

Resolved, That the Grand Secretary be instructed to prepare a list of all Grand Representatives who, from the official records, appear to have been absent from the past three Annual Convocations and have failed to make any report to this Grand Chapter of their official work, and that our M. E. Grand High Priest be recommended to arrange for new appointments to succeed said list of Grand Representatives, that hereafter this Grand Chapter may secure the full benefits to be attained by an active fulfillment of the duties."

The proceedings of forty-seven Grand Convocations pass under the critical optic of M. E. Comp. Levoy, and as usual he prepares an appetizing feast. Of Canada he says :

" The address of Grand High Priest Robertson covers sixteen pages of the record, complete in all it pretends to cover, and fully proving his fitness for the position. In it he gives a complete record of his official acts and well maintains the high prestige attained by this Grand Chapter among its peers in the United States.

He reports visiting 77 Chapters, entailing travel covering 6,000 miles, and as his address shows, did something more than merely visit, as he gives details of his findings as to the Chapters their condition and work, etc."

Of the Victorian matter he observes :

"The settlement of this difficulty will be hailed joyfully by the Craft wherever dispersed, and both Grand Chapters are entitled to congratulations on the settlement of a difficulty that threatened at one time to disrupt Capitular Masonry on both continents. May peace and harmony prevail in the future to the honor and glory of our Royal Arch."

Not so serious as that, Companion. The integrity of the Royal Craft would require something more appalling than that to disrupt it. The good effect was occasioned by a good cause. It was the natural and inevitable outcome of a difference that never degenerated to a quarrel.

He thus cheerily greets us :

"After twenty-seven years' service as Correspondent, Comp. Henry Robertson presents his valedictory, retiring from the Committee, and introduces his successor, R. E. Companion George J. Bennett as an able and talented writer and an earnest and devoted Mason. And then Comp. Bennett proceeds to verify the statement by presenting a most complete, bright and witty report, full of good things and a mass of splendid reading for his Companions, which will make them thoroughly conversant with the doings of the Capitular world. We refrain from any quotations, although the report abounds with them, but content ourselves with the statement that we are almost in accord with every position taken by this able successor to Companion Robertson.

We will look for further productions of his capable pen with interest."

Comp. Williams, of Ohio, calls him down sharply for his opinion that "the universality of Masonry is being encroached upon and endangered year after year in the effort being put forth to Christianize its ceremonies." Comp. Levoy stoutly maintains his position, and says :

"Personal observation for the past fifteen years in Lodges confirms us in the belief that the tendency has been to secularize

the symbolic degrees by the introduction of prayers and exhortations to deities foreign to those which could be accepted by men of every creed and nationality. Hence our views and the cause of our writing the paragraph quoted, which was sustaining the position of a Grand High Priest in his refusal to grant dispensations to a Chapter to go in a body to church as Royal Arch Masons, we believing that their prayers as individuals would be as efficacious as they would if offered collectively as a Chapter. We cull from the Ancient Charges the following :

‘ But though in Ancient times Masons were charged in every country to be of the religion of that country or nation, whatever it was, ’tis now thought more expedient only to oblige them to that religion in which all men agree, leaving their particular opinions to themselves ; that is, to be good men and true, or men of honor and honesty, by whatever denomination or persuasion they may be distinguished ; whereby Masonry becomes the centre of union, and the means of conciliating true friendship among persons that must have remained at a perpetual distance.’

While the spirit of this grand old charge is maintained Masonry will truly be Universal, but deviate by secularizing its ceremonies and this universality becomes a snare and a delusion which, if continued, will destroy its usefulness and pull down the grandest institution of man’s ingenuity ever erected for the benefit of humanity in the history of the world.”

George V. Ayres, Deadwood, Grand High Priest ;
George A. Pettigrew, Flandreau, Grand Secretary.

Tennessee.

Chapters, 64 ; Members, 2,755.

Nearly a full attendance of Grand officers, eleven Past Grand High Priests, twenty-seven Past High Priests, and delegates from sixty-one Chapters was the Credentials Committee’s creditable showing at the Sixty-ninth Annual Convocation held at Nashville, on the 27th January, 1896.

The Chapter at Bristol, Tennessee, complained of the encroachment of the Chapter at Bristol, Virginia, on its territory, and it was the occasion of some correspondence between the respective Grand High Priests, who held opposite views. It appears that the applicant in question was a resident of Tennessee, but claims citizenship in Virginia.

The Tennessean Grand High Priest held that Masonic jurisdiction was determined by actual resi-

dence. His Virginian confrere claimed that the place in which the applicant voted should possess him Masonically, and quotes the High Priest's letter for the other's benefit.

"Assure most Excellent Companion Kimbrough, for E. H. Gill Chapter, that we are also desirous of preventing discord, but nevertheless, like the weary sojourner delving among the ruins of the ancient temple, we would not throw aside a Keystone because the original 'Mark' upon it was 'nearly effaced by time.'"

The Grand High Priest of Tennessee thereupon suggested a committee of arbitration, which the other declined on the ground that it exceeded his authority, but agreed that until the difficulty was disposed of, to admonish his subordinate "to be careful in the strict observance of the usage of our institution."

The Jurisprudence Committee subsequently endorsed the suggestion of the Grand High Priest, and recommended that a commission of three from each Grand Chapter take the controversy into consideration for settlement.

Dispensations for two new Chapters were issued, one was revoked and three Chapters were arrested.

During the year Comp. H. R. Howard, Grand Principal Sojourner, and Comp. Charles L. Fuller, Grand Sentinel, were summoned to death.

The Committee on Ways and Means submitted a report, the leading clauses of which speak eloquently.

"From an examination of the report of the Committee on Accounts and from the information furnished us by the Grand Treasurer, there is about the sum of one thousand eight hundred and fifty dollars now on hand.

The per diem and mileage of the Representatives of this Grand Chapter, and a note for seven hundred dollars and interest, representing borrowed money to meet the deficit owing by the Grand Chapter for the year 1894, will consume the amount of funds on hand."

Comp. H. H. Ingersoll set out to write the report on Correspondence with a resolve "if possible to make a report so short that it will be welcome to all." He

succeeded in compressing his labors into forty-seven pages, including an "aftermath," but that it will be welcome on that account is open to doubt.

He gives a couple of pages to Canada, devoted altogether to extracts from M. E. Comp. J. Ross Robertson's address and laudatory comments thereon.

"The Grand 'Z' of this jurisdiction has set an example from Grand High Priests in the United States which is well worthy of imitation. What this zealous Companion has done shall be told in his own language:

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Happy is the Grand Jurisdiction that is so faithfully served by such a zealous Grand Officer as presides over the destinies of Canada."

Under Pennsylvania he contributes a personal opinion of the Past Master's degree:

"For our part we are in entire sympathy with Pennsylvania in this matter and would like to join with her, foreigner though she be, to expel from our Chapters this P. M. intruder so that we might never hear of him more in Capitular Masonry.

And this Committee is bold to say that there are at least one-half dozen other correspondents of like view with himself, and one Grand Chapter has already memorialized the General Grand Chapter to eliminate this degree from Capitular Masonry."

That Comp. Ingersoll rises above the ordinary and is aware of it, is radiantly exhibited in some of his comments. Whatever Tennessee does he approves. Tennessee abolished the Grand Representatives, hence a jurisdiction that maintains the system displays weakness.

"How much nonsense our good Companions would be rid of in this matter of representation if they would conclude as did Tennessee—that this is all show and fustian."

The practice of dividing up the address of the Grand High Priest for distribution to several committees, commands his loftiest scorn:

"Implying that the address of the Grand Officer cannot receive a peaceable and decent sort of treatment, but must be

chopped and hacked and mangled and scattered out among the half-dozen hungry committees who are anxious to devour and destroy."

Tennessee is above that kind of thing. And at Minnesota, who gives a single page in memory "of the beloved dead of sixty jurisdictions," he pauses long enough to rebuke :

"Now seriously, Companions, what does this amount to? Isn't it an idle form and ceremony? We feel no sorrow for the death of those we never knew or never heard of. We have mourning enough in this world of our own without seeking opportunity for it: and it is hollow and sleeveless for us to pretend to be mourning when we are not."

It may be here mentioned that no inconsiderable portion of his forty-seven pages is taken up with the references of other jurisdictions to the illustrious dead of Tennessee. But then it's style he is after :

"Necrology—a perfectly appropriate and exactly correct word for the place, no doubt; but one tires sometimes of the proprieties; and to the eyes of this Correspondent, this Greek quadrisyllable projecting itself offensively in caps into the middle of every High Priest's address, and demanding notice and consideration, has come to be in all its propriety a hateful thing. Cannot the High Priests omit it, or do the Secretaries edit it into their addresses? We know as soon as we come to it—and that is soon enough—that the address contains a discourse on the dead, either long or short, according to the feelings and taste of the writer. But why advertise it with this great long-legged, hideous, hard-sounding, unpleasant, dissonant Hellenism? Let the registers of death come without any such proclamation or blare of trumpets—easily, softly, as becomes a tribute to the dead. Pray, Messrs. High Priests and Secretaries, relieve us from this offence!"

Amen. It would be hard to stand another like that. But he finds solace just where one would expect a reviewer of superior attainments to discern an oasis—in Boston.

The impressive opening ceremony of Massachusetts' Grand Chapter absorbs him. "Why should we not use this form in Tennessee?"

"The East does not appear to 'segregate and distribute' the address of the Grand Master, but refers it to a committee

in the good old fashion, and the committee reports. So may it ever be, in Massachusetts and Tennessee!

‘And so, too, may it be in the great Northwest,
As soon as Companions shall think it best.’”

If this is a quotation there is room for forgiveness; if his own, the offence is unpardonable. To perpetrate an atrocity like that in the atmosphere of the Hub, one can but infer that the beans were highly seasoned.

Levity apart, however, there is one glaring fault with the report, there is too little of it.

W. D. Henderson, Athens, Grand High Priest;
W. A. Clendenning, Nashville, Grand Secretary.

Texas.

Chapters, 133; Members, 6,098.

Still happy in its independence, the Grand Chapter for the Forty-sixth time met in Annual Convocation at Houston, on the 3rd December, 1895. Grand High Priest H. K. Stone presided. Ninety-two Chapter representatives were in attendance.

The Grand High Priest opened with a reference to the death of Past Grand High Priest Z. E. Coombs and a brief sketch of that zealous Mason's life.

He granted dispensations for three new Chapters, constituted four and revived seven.

The letters he received asking for information or rulings were many, but he says that in nearly every instance a reference to the constitution or Grand Chapter resolutions would have saved valuable time. Yet five pages of the address are devoted to these communications and the replies thereto.

In one case he was asked whether if a Companion is square on the books and asks for a dimit, it is necessary that the ballot be spread on application? He replied, "It is necessary."

From this it is deduced that no matter how pleasant may be the process of applying for and gaining admission to a Chapter in Texas, there is a possibility that some difficulty may be experienced in getting out of it.

The Deputy Grand High Priest's valuable time was also employed to some extent in giving decisions and rulings. One of them will bear reproduction: A Companion who had been a member for several years applied for dimit, and objection was raised because of his not selecting his mark. He was asked whether the dimit could be withheld. Having quoted the law, he adds:

"From these it is plain the Chapter must keep a 'Book of Marks,' and the choosing and recording of a mark is one of the rules of the Chapter. How long he may delay is left within his own conscience, but as long as he may delay, so long he is postponing a solemn vow that he has made. Should he die without choosing and recording his mark, his vow will have been broken; should he ask for a dimit in this condition, he has not conformed to the 'By-laws, Rules and Regulations' of his Chapter, hence should be a bar to a dimit. When his attention has been called to his vow, and he still refuses, then charges should be entered against him. My ruling is: The dimit should be withheld."

The Jurisprudence Committee's comment on the above reveals the method of procedure which, to unfamiliar eyes, will be of interest:

"This decision we cannot approve. Under the law governing the granting dimit, a member in good standing may, upon paying up his dues, to the Chapter and making application in open Chapter have an honorable dimit. Upon said application the ballot must be spread, and, if clear, the dimit is issued. If one or more black balls appear, the issuance is deferred one month. If no charges are preferred within that period, the dimit issues without further action of the Chapter. A member must be considered as in good standing, unless charges are preferred against him. If any member thinks a dimit asked for should be withheld for any cause, his duty is to cast a black ball and then prefer charges before the month expires."

A number of demised Chapters petitioned for a return of their charters.

The salary of the Grand Secretary was increased to \$1,500, and the Grand Steward was voted \$50 for his services.

That the old-time connection between Lodge and Chapter is not wholly severed, is indicated in a communication from McLellan Lodge, No. 159, which set

forth that Stonewall Chapter, at Benton, demised in 1887, and at the time had a few dollars in its treasury. That little sum the Lodge now modestly requested might be donated to it. The request was favorably entertained by the Finance Committee, which recommended acquiescence.

Texan affairs are well looked after, if the number of committees is a criterion, no less than fourteen being appointed at the opening of Grand Chapter, and the wonder is that they do not get mixed up. One of them had nothing to do, viz., that on Grievances and Appeals.

The duty of inspection is performed by Grand Visitors, one appointed for each of the seven districts and their expenses are paid. These constitute the Committee on Work, and they only, and those to whom they issue certificates of competency, are authorized to instruct. The following resolution was adopted :

“ That the Committee on Work shall be required to remain in session two days after the close of each Annual Convocation of this Grand Chapter, beginning with the Convocation to be held in December 1896, for the purpose of examining such Companions as may appear before them asking certificates as to their proficiency in and competency to teach the work of this Grand Chapter ; and said Committee on Work shall receive for their services ten dollars for each of said two days and actual expenses, provided any such Companions wish to appear and do appear before said committee for such purpose.”

Comp. John L. Terrell follows up his good work of the preceding year with another capital report on Correspondence, in which Canada receives a measure of his fraternal attention. Of M. E. Comp. J. Ross Robertson's address, from which he liberally quotes, he says :

“ After which the Grand Z. read his address. We have this year reviewed about thirty Grand Chapters, and in our opinion this address of Comp. Robertson is the best that has been before us. He writes with an easy grace, showing familiarity with his subject, and gives evidence that he is thoroughly posted upon the condition of the Craft in his jurisdiction.”

Noting the action of Grand Chapter in voting certain rank to a number of Companions in Australia, Comp. Terrell remarks :

“We are not especially concerned about the Past Master’s degree, but we take this occasion to ask Comp. Bennett if the conferring of the Past Master’s degree by a Chapter is any more of an ‘anomaly’ than the mere voting the high rank of Grand Z. upon a Companion in a far off country, who probably never saw inside a Grand Chapter.”

At first glance it would appear so, but if a modicum of the thought that was given to the matter ere it was decided on, had been accorded to it by our Companion, he would have observed that there was method in the madness. One of the conditions upon which the Canadian Companions in Australia insisted, was that the rank which they enjoyed at the time of ratification of terms of union, should be recognized by the Victorian Grand Chapter. This was agreed to, and the honors conferred not only expressed Canada’s admiration for their previous devotion and fealty, but furnished them with a proportionate amount of representation and equality in the councils of their new allegiance, and a consequent measure of protection against possible prejudice and injustice. We do not mean to infer that the Companions of the Victorian regime would for a moment have acted, under the circumstances, other than with the fraternal generosity which the occasion warranted, but it will be admitted that the peculiar situation was prolific of possibilities.

“After twenty-seven years of valuable service to the Craft, Companion Henry Robertson delivers his valedictory, and resigns from the Correspondence Committee and ‘bids a regretful farewell to those who, during all these years, have made his duty a pleasure.’ The pen is taken up by Comp. Geo. J. Bennett, who appears to thoroughly understand his business, and reviews forty-three Grand Bodies with a masterly hand.

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Companion Bennett defends their system of dual membership, and speaks of the ‘colossal possibilities and magnificent distances’ of Canada. Well, Texas is not exceedingly small, neither are we ‘afflicted with corns,’ and we don’t want to be. He comes near converting us on the subject of the Past Master’s degree, and at the risk of making lengthy this review, we must quote him on this subject.”

He then reproduces the argument which almost converted him, but immediately after says to the Delaware reviewer who expresses opposition to the degree:

"We have been taught that ancient landmarks required that no person should be exalted to the Royal Arch, except he be a Past Master, and that the number might not be too limited, candidates for the Royal Arch were created virtual Past Masters, thus fitting them for the higher degree."

The ancient landmarks have been subjected to many indignities in their lengthy existence, but this is the first time we have heard of them used as a buttress for the Past Master's degree.

He, however, agrees with Delaware that the objection of a member to the advancement of a Mark Master should be sustained, and that the objection is equivalent to a black ball.

We doubt whether "all Masonic Jurists" will coincide. The brother having once been balloted for and accepted, possesses claims which he did not have as an applicant, and if a member objects to his going further, that objection should be shown to be a valid one, supported by a majority of the members, or by the submission of a charge and subsequent formality of a trial, if deemed necessary.

A. S. Bunting, Weatherford, Grand High Priest ;
George Lopas, Jun., Houston, Grand Secretary.

Vermont.

Chapters, 27 ; Members, 2,718.

Within sight of its "four score," this hale old Grand Chapter met in Annual Convocation at Burlington for the Seventy-ninth time on the 12th June, 1896. M. E. Comp. Robert J. Wright, of Newport, Grand High Priest.

All the Grand officers but one, seven Past Grand High Priests, and the representatives of the twenty-seven Chapters registered. Thirty-two Grand Representatives were present, among whom Canada's faithful envoy, Comp. Chas. W. Whitcomb, appeared as usual.

The Grand High Priest's address was brief and altogether of local interest. He very wisely declined a dispensation for a new Chapter when he considered that

the usefulness of an existing Chapter would be impaired. A serious illness interfered with his visitations.

The reports of the Grand Lecturer and District Deputies indicate that the work is well looked after, and the jurisdiction was eminently peaceful.

The Grand Chapter of New South Wales was recognized.

M. E. Comp. Marsh O. Perkins submits his fifth annual report on Correspondence, and a very entertaining and instructive report it is.

For the stability of the General Grand Chapter's authorized work he does not entertain a lordly respect. To Comp. Pillans, who deplores the existence of such things, he says:

"He need not be disturbed, as the General Grand will never hold long enough to one form of work to make its cipher at least intelligible even to those entitled to a knowledge of its mysteries. As for other ciphers, haven't we read somewhere that the three ancient Grand Masters left one for the benefit of posterity, and supposed to be still in use."

Reviewing Canada he notes the presence of twenty-six Grand Representatives, "but no one appeared for Vermont." Not often, indeed, is Vermont's representative absent, nor was he on this occasion. His name, by some mischance, was omitted from the list at the opening, but he is duly reported as having presented his credentials and was received with the honors which the ambassador from the Green Mountain State was entitled to. How the eagle eye of our Companion failed to catch so important a feature of the proceedings, is strange.

He refers to M. E. Comp. J. Ross Robertson's labors thus:

"The address of the Grand Z. is a complete report of a zealous steward, whose diligence and zeal is attested by the remarkable record of official visitations to 77 of the 82 Chapters in the Province, east of Sault Ste. Marie, involving nearly 6000 miles of travel. His personal observations enable him to report a high degree of prosperity in many of the fields of labor, and find cause for congratulation that so few laborers are unworthy of their hire."

He quotes freely and says :

“ He emphatically objects to the introduction of strangers with foreign rituals among the workmen, and closes his very instructive address with a brief personal allusion that speaks eloquently of his interest in, and zeal for, Capitular Masonry.”

For the Grand Superintendents' work and their reports thereon he has nothing but praise :

“ They are too lengthy to admit of more than mere mention; but it may be said that few Grand Jurisdictions have as competent and efficient officials of this class as Canada, and none that realize to a greater extent the fullness of their responsibilities. In this the Royal Craft of that Grand Jurisdiction are to be warmly congratulated.”

Turning to the Correspondence end of the volume, he says :

“ After twenty-seven years of service as chairman of the Committee on Correspondence, Comp. Henry Robertson bids a regretful farewell to his Companions of the Guild, and introduces as his successor R. E. Comp. George J. Bennett. Regretting the departure of the one, we cordially join in the welcome to the other, who worthily dons the mantle of his predecessor. Companion Bennett reviews the proceedings of 45 Grand Chapters with skill and ability, including Vermont for 1894. He agrees with us as to the Past Master's degree, and facetiously remarks that Canada has borrowed that iconoclastic dog and shook the 'oriental rag baby' with brilliant success. A marked sign of progress, in our opinion.”

Under Wisconsin he has the following :

“ Companion Bennett of Canada having criticised rather severely a decision of the Grand High Priest of Wisconsin, one year earlier, to the effect that a Royal Arch Mason who had not received the intermediate degrees, must be 'healed' before visiting a Chapter, Companion Swain thinks the former misunderstands the situation, and then mildly rebukes and instructs him.”

As in the case of Vermont's representative, we fear that this is another instance of hasty review. While Comp. Swain's explanation (see Wisconsin) may be held to be an “instruction,” there is certainly nothing in it that can be construed into “a rebuke,” nor was it to be

expected that such could reasonably be applied to the honest opinion of a decision which we were careful to note at the time, was but a dutiful adherence to the laws made and provided. The criticism was not of the Grand High Priest's ruling, as Comp. Perkins infers, but of the regulation which compelled such ruling.

Daniel N. Nicholson, Burlington, Grand High Priest; Warren G. Reynolds, Burlington, Grand Secretary.

Virginia.

Chapters, 36; Members, 2,407.

The Eighty-eighth Annual Convocation was held in the city of Richmond, on the 12th November, 1895, the Grand officers and representatives of twenty Chapters attending.

M. E. Comp. George Wilson Poe opens his address thus:

"Capitular Masonry in our Grand Jurisdiction, candor compels me to say, is not as flourishing as Ancient Craft Masonry—in some parts of our State it is doing grandly, but here in our own city we find it a difficult matter to get a full complement of officers, our young men claiming that there is too much work to learn, and we have to fall back on the old stagers to help us out at each Convocation."

This he attributes to the haste in pushing candidates forward that they may qualify for other things, and rightly says that the Chapter work loses its value in consequence.

Companions in the city of Pulaski wanted a Chapter, but those at East Radford objected, as it would work injuriously to the Chapter at that place. The Grand High Priest thought so, too, and withheld his dispensation.

He makes an earnest appeal on behalf of the Masonic Home, towards which "nothing as yet has been done by us as Chapter Masons," though all have contributed through their lodges. Eighteen boys and seven girls are being cared for and educated in the Home, and another of its beneficiaries is Past Grand Master and Past Grand High Priest John R. Purdee.

"The Grand Commandery of Virginia has applied for and secured the privilege of paying the expenses of the educational department, and has for two years past appropriated the necessary money for that purpose, and steps have been taken by that branch of our Masonic family to put up and furnish a handsome library in the new building recently erected by the efforts of the Ladies' Auxiliary Association. While all these noble works are going on, the doors of the Home remain closed, for want of money, upon the widows of our deceased brethren who are almost daily knocking for admittance."

Pocahontas Chapter surrendered its charter through the District Deputy Grand Lecturer of the Ninth District, to whom it was returned by the Grand High Priest for compliance with the law. The latter says:

"I ask a careful examination of their records, which I think will show some queer proceedings if they have been correctly recorded."

The jurisdiction difficulty with Tennessee is set forth and the correspondence given. This is the case in which a resident of Tennessee, who was born and votes in Virginia, is claimed by both jurisdictions. Border troubles are awkward.

The Grand High Priest urges the resumption of the Correspondence Committee's labors, and closes an interesting address thus:

"Let us, as did our ancient brethren, go out from the presence of this Grand Council fully determined to redouble our assiduity in the cause of Capitular Masonry. Taking with us the pick of Renewed Zeal, the crow of a Uniform Work, and the spade of United Effort, then will we be fully prepared to remove the rubbish lying about our several Tabernacles, when our brethren of the Symbolic Degrees, seeing our increasing activity, will hasten to Mt. Moriah to aid and assist in the great and glorious work of rebuilding our Mystic Temple, without the hope of fee or reward. Then, and then only, can we justly claim the noble name of Mason. Then, and then only, can we appropriate to ourselves the proud title of "a workman that needeth not to be ashamed."

The first day's proceedings closed with a resolution "that this Grand Chapter do meet in Grand Committee of the Whole in this hall to-morrow at 10 a.m."

This is a feature peculiar to the Old Dominion and may possess advantages, which, however, are not recorded.

The District Deputy Grand Lecturers did the work of inspection with commendable zeal.

Virginians know a good thing when they see it. Their zealous Grand Lecturer was elected Grand High Priest, but that did not worry them a little bit.

“On motion, the Grand King was requested to appoint Grand High Priest Jacob Bumgardner as Grand Lecturer for the ensuing year.

Whereupon, R. E. Grand King J. P. Steffner announced that M. E. Jacob Bumgardner was appointed Grand Lecturer for the ensuing Masonic year.”

“Time is great, and greater no man's trust
Than his who keeps the fortress for his king,
Wearing great honors as some delicate robe
Brocaded o'er with names 'twere sin to tarnish.”

Jacob Bumgardner, Staunton, Grand High Priest ;
James B. Blanks, Petersburg, Grand Secretary.

Washington.

Chapters, 17 ; Members, 1,145.

On June 5th, 1895, the Eleventh Annual Convocation assembled in the Chapter Hall, Tacoma, Horace W. Tyler, Grand High Priest, presiding.

He reported everything harmonious, the Royal Craft healthy and the increase in membership fair. No new Chapters were organized.

He was diligent in visitation and could personally testify to the excellence of the Chapters and their working.

“The financial condition is excellent, some, even in the face of hard times have reduced their dues, which I believe to be wise and commendable, and I would advise that as a rule it is better to reduce the annual dues and make the fees for the degrees higher, than the reverse, for the general prosperity of the order.

Some of the Chapters have done very little work, although the average is fair. It is gratifying, however, to find that the accessions to our order have been men of the most excellent standing in the several communities, and though we have not increased greatly in numbers, the quality is without question."

He believes that every Chapter should be inspected at least once by the chief executive. At one of his visits the Eastern Star shone refulgently, and he wished it were often. He answered a number of questions, most of which are old friends disguised in a new phraseology.

The following resolution was submitted and adopted:

"*Resolved*, That Section 9 of the By-laws of this Grand Chapter be amended by adding: 'Provided that any Royal Arch Mason hailing from the jurisdiction of any Grand Royal Arch Chapter recognized by this Grand Chapter presenting himself as a visitor or by petition for affiliation without having received the intermediate degrees, may have the said degrees conferred by the unanimous vote of the Chapter to which application is made upon the payment of one-half the required fee.'"

Only one-half of the required fee. Think of it! Bargain day in Washington. Decidedly comforting tidings this for peregrinating Companions who would otherwise find the Chapter door shut upon them. Now, why could not Washington be as generous as Wisconsin, which, without "a unanimous ballot" and without "money or price," welcomes the Royal Arch visiting Companion to a participation in "all" the ceremonies?

A resolution having for its object the abolition of substitutes was disproved by the committee.

A committee appointed to consider the weighty matter of suitable regalia for the "Grand Orator," reported verbally and was given further time. When decided, it is hoped that for the benefit of other jurisdictions, a portrait of the Washington Demosthenes in official attire will be incorporated in the printed proceedings.

Comp. Yancey C. Blalock, of the many Correspondents with whom we have exchanged greetings, takes the palm for modesty. He never intrudes his own opinions

where those of somebody else will fit in handier. He occasionally, however, indulges in "a think," as in the case of Comp. Pillans, of Alabama, who expressed surprise at the prominence given to the Eastern Star innovation in Washington, and this is how he gave it utterance:

In reply to the above, we will say that the Grand Royal Arch Chapter of Washington acted as escort to Waitsburg Lodge, No. 16, F. & A. Masons, and in doing so was honoring one of its Grand Officers, *i. e.*, the Grand Steward. The Eastern Star Chapter conducted its services independent of the Masonic bodies as many religious denominations do, after which the Lodge took charge of the remains and performed the usual services of the Craft. We know the Eastern Star Chapters are not recognized as part of the Masonic tree, but we think they furnish the 'sunshine' necessary to liven up many an old 'trunk' of a Lodge that is fast going to decay if left to itself."

Conclusive evidence that the old trunk cumbered the ground and should be cut down. Of the feminine element conducting services at a Masonic funeral, we entertain an opinion which, however, it might not be discreet to publish—it would cloud Comp. Yancey's "sunshine"; and that the Grand Chapter of Washington acted as escort to a Blue Lodge, is so original, so thoroughly occidental, that a criticism in our present mood might be interpreted as unfraternal, and we do not desire to be so accused. That the proceeding was kindly meant cannot be doubted from a reading of the above candid confession; that it was consistent with dignity may be left to opinion.

His review of Canada for 1894 is embraced in less than twenty lines.

Edward R. Hare, Tacoma, Grand High Priest;
Yancey C. Blalock, Walla Walla, Grand Secretary.

1896.

The counterfeit presentment of M. E. Comp. Edward R. Hare, Grand High Priest, wearing a sunny mien and a Shrine button, looks out from the covers of the printed proceedings of the Twelfth Annual Convocation, which was held at Seattle, June 5th and 6th, 1896.

All the Subordinate Chapters but one were represented. That they were not complete is a pity, but probably the supply of proxies was exhausted.

The Grand High Priest reported everything and everybody at peace, the comity of nations was undisturbed, and not even a mother-in-law's frown shadowed the domestic fireside. At least, that is how one may interpret the condition of "Foreign" and "Home Relations."

The former, however, is imperilled by an expressed disapproval of the representative system, which the Grand High Priest regards as useless and costly.

Referring to the ritual, he suggested the cutting out of the "Fifth Tie" clause from the obligation, as opposed to Masonic teachings. We do not know what the knotty point is, but cheerily agree with the suggestion. By all means untie.

He seems to be right in line with many of his confreres, for he was "so situated as to be debarred the pleasure of visiting the several Chapters in the jurisdiction." He did, however, "break over the rule once." He visited Seattle Chapter.

"It is needless to say we had a good time, and the Seattle Companions themselves seemed to enjoy the affair. The work was excellently and impressively rendered, and the banquet which followed was 'a thing of beauty'—for a few minutes—and the remembrance 'a joy forever.' I returned home regretting I had anything to do the balance of the year but visit and enjoy the hospitality of the Chapters throughout the jurisdiction."

There is something in this :

"The brother who is rushed through the degrees in the Chapter allowed to pass unnoticed the beautiful degrees of Royal and Select Master, and hurried into the Commandery, that he may don a uniform, wear a feather and sport a Templar charm, can never appreciate the ceremonies or lessons of the Royal Arch, and must fail to grasp their true meaning; such a Companion seldom takes interest in the Chapter work, and rarely attends except on state occasions, or to witness the humiliation of some brother in the Past Master's degree."

The various reports were presented and showed a fairly healthy condition of affairs.

It is then recorded :

"The Grand Orator then delivered his annual address, which on motion was ordered to be printed with the proceedings."

Later on it is stated:

"The oration which was to have been delivered has never been heard of (nor the roll of manuscript been seen, which was placed on the Grand Secretary's desk by the Grand Orator on the day before the Annual Convocation), but the following was rendered to the members of the Grand Chapter in lieu thereof.
—*Grand Secretary.*"

It is feared that the Grand Secretary, in his keen desire to give publicity to an alleged poem (the creation of Comp. J. Weatherwax) got mixed up somewhat. This composition, which takes up some four pages, we refrain from reproducing; it has already afflicted one jurisdiction; but it is noted that the list of Chapters contains one which includes no less than nine Companions bearing the euphonious cognomen, Weatherwax. If they are all stricken the same way as the author of the Byronic effusion which took the place of the "stolen" oration, then all we have to say is that Washington possesses a Chapter that not only demands sympathy, but also the close attention of an instructor.

The Grand Officers and Companions present who drew from Grand Chapter nearly \$600 on account of "expenses," agreed with the wisdom of the Grand High Priest, that the "costly" Grand Representative system should be abolished, and adopted the equally wise committee's report to the same effect.

Grand Secretary Blalock again reviewed the Grand Chapters, his report being altogether made up of extracts. As he says himself:

"We have endeavored not to burden you with our individual opinions, as we have frequently stated our reasons therefor, but if the Companions of Washington will read the report, we think it will present to them the conditions and doings of the Craft as we have found it. That much being accomplished we will be satisfied."

And if the Companions of Washington are satisfied everybody is, of course, happy.

“ He is well paid that is well satisfied.”

Walter LeRoy Darley, Poineroy, Grand High Priest;
Yancey C. Blalock, Walla Walla, Grand Secretary.

West Virginia.

Chapters, 20; Members, 1,216.

M. E. Comp. Neil Robinson presided over the Twenty-fifth Annual Convocation held in the city of Charleston, on the 11th November, 1895. All the Chapters were represented.

The Grand High Priest's address was brief and practical. His opening paragraph gives concisely the condition of affairs in the jurisdiction:

“In the year that has passed since our last Convocation, Royal Arch Masonry has advanced steadily within our jurisdiction. The reports from the subordinate bodies will show an increase in membership and in property. Harmony has prevailed, and not one case has been appealed or referred to your Grand High Priest for a decision. This condition is the more pleasing when we recall the fact that the Chapters throughout the State have been actively at work.”

He announced the completion and publication of Grand Secretary Long's text book, which he recommends to the Companions as a valuable and interesting guide.

For good reasons he hesitated about granting a dispensation for a new Chapter at Listersville, and Grand Chapter sustained him. The Companions of Beverley were more fortunate and their dispensation was continued. The Chapter of Bromwell was instituted.

To make preparations for properly celebrating the silver anniversary, the Grand High Priest recommended the appointment of a committee.

The death of Past Grand High Priest Frank Rex received suitable mention.

Grand Lecturer Walker submitted business as a reason for not continuing in office, and nominated his successor.

The Grand Secretary announced that the Rev. Comp. Dr. Torrance, Chairman of the Correspondence Committee, had been seriously ill for several months and his report was incomplete. He therefore asked that time be allowed for its completion and publication with the proceedings. The following, however, appears in the appendix :

“The letter here following will bring sorrow to the hearts of many Companions in West Virginia, and to the corps of Grand Chapter Correspondents throughout the United States. Let us humbly hope that ‘the Father of mercies and the God of all comfort, our only help in time of need,’ may in His own good time restore our beloved Companion to health, and enable him to yet spend many years among us in usefulness and honor :

81 West 104th Street,
NEW YORK CITY, March 14th, 1896.

Dear Bro. Long :—

I regret to be compelled to say, that I will not be able to furnish any Correspondence for the Grand Chapter. I worked at it a little—supposed that after I got here to New York, I would be able to finish it. The doctors had encouraged me to believe that I would be better, but I have only grown weaker from week to week.

The slightest exertion, either mental or physical, creates or heightens my fever. I am not able at present even to write a letter myself.

It is a sad disappointment to me.

Yours Fraternally,

H. W. TORRANCE.

Per M. W.”

The non-appearance of the report and the reason therefor are received with regret, and we join in the prayer that the reverend Companion may be restored to health and strength.

A jewel was voted to the retiring Grand High Priest, and an amendment to the constitution was offered providing that the Annual Convocation be held on the day preceding the first day's session of the Grand Lodge.

The Grand Chapter was closed and all partook of supper, when being thus fortified they witnessed the ceremonies of the Royal Arch degree by Tyrian Chapter.

Samuel N. Myers, Martinsburg, Grand High Priest ;
Odel S. Long, Charleston, Grand Secretary.

Wisconsin.

Chapters, 71 ; Members, 5,676.

All the Grand officers, ten Past Grand High Priests, and representatives from nearly all the Chapters, were present at the Forty-sixth Annual Convocation held at Milwaukee on the 18th February, 1896.

An eminently practical address was that of Grand High Priest Samuel J. Wright. Noting the fact that the gain in membership is traceable to new Chapters, while the old ones, in some instances, show a falling off, he says :

“ From these facts we can but learn that in the location of a new Chapter great care should be taken in order that no material injury be inflicted upon the older one by divesting it of territorial jurisdiction. Observation teaches us that to sustain a Chapter of seventy-five members—the average size in this State—it requires a *Lodge* membership of at least two hundred and twenty-five. A regulation, therefore, prohibiting the issuing of dispensations for new Chapters, by which the territorial jurisdiction of any of the present Chapters would be reduced so as to contain only Lodges with a combined membership of less than two hundred, I think would be advisable.”

Briefly but appropriately he refers to the death of Past Grand High Priest A. V. H. Carpenter.

“ One whom the Craft delighted to honor.”

He does not appear to be enamored of the Grand representative system, though how he could consistently continue to hold Rhode Island's commission and entertain these views, is difficult to reconcile :

“ It appears to me that this antiquated custom, so long the laughing stock of Masons generally, should be abandoned ; as

far back as the primitive days of the stage coach, can we find the record of a single instance where this system of consuls and ambassadors has been of any service whatever. Some of the larger bodies, even in Symbolic Masonry, where each Grand jurisdiction is a sovereign, have already discarded it, and others will certainly follow. I would recommend that the system be abolished and their duties assigned to the regular officers—the rule actually in practice at the present time.”

The General Committee agreed with his views, and recommended the abandonment of the system, a course, however, which Grand Chapter postponed indefinitely.

He issued three dispensations for new Chapters, all of which give promise of healthy activity.

Among his decisions is the following :

“ Does a Chapter rejecting a candidate for the degrees acquire perpetual jurisdiction ?

Answer :—It does.”

To which he pertinently adds :

“ Why this harsh rule should not be changed I cannot see. It is hoped that you will give this matter consideration, and adopt some definite period as the limit of a Chapter’s jurisdiction in such cases.”

An amendment to the constitution affecting the above was subsequently submitted.

To Canadians, who would as soon see the introduction of a comic song during the ceremonies as a cigar, the following will be interesting ; but as the Grand High Priest’s remarks thereon coincide so accurately with our own ideas on the subject, we refrain from comment :

“ Informally I have been asked whether smoking should be permitted during the session of a Chapter in any of its several degrees. I understand that one Chapter considered it so far an open question as to pass a mild resolution against it, after a long and heated discussion, though some time later, by permission of the High Priest, it was disregarded, for the reason, I presume, of its being considered too harsh for the finer feelings of some of his sensitive members. Though not called upon for an official decision I cannot refrain from expressing my surprise that such acts as are intended to lower the dignity of any assembly should be tolerated for a moment in a body ‘ opened under the usual

Masonic restrictions.' I hope you will express yourselves on this subject in such terms as will not be misunderstood."

He quotes an edict of the Grand Lodge, which it is presumed refers to affiliation, "that only four-fifths of the ballots cast in favor of an applicant shall be necessary to elect to membership," and sensibly remarks thereon :

" It has never seemed to me just that a Companion to whom we are bound by such solemn ties should be placed on the same footing as he to whom we are not. Symbolic Masonry, though conservative as she is, thus abandons this principle, thereby dispelling that oft unfounded fear of the result of the unanimous ballot, which may have hindered the affiliation of many a good Mason. Anything that will encourage affiliation and discourage non-affiliation should certainly be adopted."

The suggestion was accepted and acted upon by a proposed amendment.

The Grand Secretary reported that jewels had been procured for Past Grand High Priests Swain, Ring, Libbey and Hayhurst. The three former were decorated during the year, and the former received his at this Convocation.

In the case of an objection lodged against a brother who has been balloted for and received one degree, Wisconsin undoubtedly takes the correct view. As some Grand Chapters hold that the solitary objection is equivalent to a black ball and precludes advancement, the following from Wisconsin's "rulings" is reproduced :

First—A protest against advancement after receiving a degree may be made in open Chapter or by a written communication to the Secretary.

Second—Such protest shall state the specific grounds of objection and the facts on which the objection is based. The protest shall then be considered by the Chapter, which shall have the power, by a two-thirds vote, to advance the candidate, notwithstanding the protest.

Third—In all cases of protest the fact shall be recorded in the minutes, but the name of the objector shall not be recorded.

Fourth—A protest may be withdrawn at any time, and when so withdrawn the fact shall be recorded by the Secretary."

M. E. Comp. Swain, notwithstanding the additional anxiety incidental to the care and wear of a new jewel, furnishes another cheerful and instructive report on Correspondence, which he introduces thus :

“This report is our thirteenth ; thirteen is called an unlucky number. We once heard of a man seventy-seven years old, who sat down at table with thirteen, and died just thirteen years later. We knew a man who ascribed his ill-luck at whist to the fact that he played with thirteen cards. However, we saw the new moon over our right shoulder and we will let it go.”

Of the reduction of the minimum fee he has this to say under California :

“We are glad to quote the above, because it is a frequent occurrence in our Grand Bodies to have some one desirous of doing more business on smaller profits make a similar motion. We believe Oliver Wendell Holmes was author of the aphorism that ‘the nation that shortens its sword widens its dominions.’ The result of our observation is, that the Body which raises its fees multiplies its applicants.”

To Canada he gives over five pages, and quotes frequently from M. E. Comp. J. Ross Robertson’s address :

“He commends the wisdom of the Grand Chapter in reducing the fees for the degrees to ten dollars. We cannot say we agree with him, but we give him the benefit of his opinion.

Neither are we prepared to agree with him that the Royal Arch is the summit of all there is in Masonry, but we will let him speak for himself in this.”

What is the summit of Masonry, Comp. Swain? To those who have climbed, and are still willing to learn, the reply will be awaited with interest.

Our initial effort he scans with fraternal encouragement and kindly forbearance :

“Our friend Henry Robertson, who for twenty-seven years has wielded the quill as Correspondent, retires from that position, and in his valedictory introduces and commends his successor, Geo. J. Bennett, who gives us an able report. Nevertheless, we part with Robertson with great regret. In spite of which, we welcome his successor—‘The king is dead. Long live the king!’

The opening is sharp, and indicates that it may not be safe to fire bricks at him.

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When he gets to Long, he takes off his gloves and goes for him without mercy, anent the Past Master's degree, which Long thinks might be conferred by a virtual Past Master upon one elected to preside over his Lodge. We quote it, more especially to show the Canada method."

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To our remarks on the conjunction of the Chapter and the Eastern Star in North Dakota, and our expressed antipathy to public installations, he has this to say :

"We are not a 'jiner,' so far as the Eastern Star is concerned, and don't propose to defend it ; but so far as the public installation is concerned, Comp. Bennett should bear in mind, that while in Canada or Pennsylvania, where the installation ceremonies are to some extent esoteric, it would be improper, in nearly or quite all the other jurisdictions, there is nothing in the ritual of that nature and nothing which the whole world cannot read, therefore there is no reason for not doing the whole in public. As a matter of fact, in our public installations, the outside world is confined to the families and friends of the members."

To all of which we subscribe, except that "there is no reason for not doing the whole in public." What we should like more than all else, was to learn Comp. Swain's reason for doing the whole, or any part, in public. That a reason exists is evident, and to us who are strangers to the practice, and we trust ever will be, the knowledge would at least give us something upon which to hang a defence on behalf of others.

To those within the veils, the ceremonies of installation, esoteric if you like, possess a meaning and significance wholly beyond the profane, no matter how attentive and intelligent, to appreciate. Disguise their emotions as they may, our titles, costumes, and surroundings generally, can only furnish material for ridicule and merriment, and markedly so when the audience is "confined to the friends and families of the members." The impression conveyed to the Companions is utterly lost upon the dear relatives, and even to the former the effect is impaired by reason of the presence of the latter. Comp. Swain will have to come down with some

sledge-hammer argument before he can convince us that the show business is conducive to the upbuilding and dignity of the Craft. On the contrary, the gradual opening of the doors is losing to us the respect for our mysteries which attracted to our ranks the worthy men in the good old days.

He quotes our remarks on Grand High Priest Hayhurst's ruling in the matter of a visiting Companion who had not received the intermediate degrees, and says :

" We do not think Comp. Bennett apprehends the full meaning of the law which he condemns. The term ' healing,' which Comp. Hayhurst used, was not correct, but the decision was all right. We fully recognize the legitimacy of Royal Arch Masons made where they do not have the intermediate degree ; but, when they sit in our Chapters, they are very liable to hear discussions of the esoteric work of degrees of which they know nothing, and as to which they are under no obligation of secrecy ; consequently, before admitting them, we administer, without charge, obligations which bind them as we are bound, and which enable them to fully participate in all our ceremonies. It is not at all a question of recognition. Can you find any fault with that, Comp. Bennett ?"

No, Comp. Swain, there is certainly no fault to be found with Wisconsin's application of the law to which it must subscribe. It is just in keeping with the broad-mindedness which characterizes its interpretation of other matters which must be regulated by laws. It was not Wisconsin's ruling which we criticized, but the occasion which created it. We are under no misapprehension whatever as to the full meaning of the law, which, as we said before, shuts a Royal Arch Mason out of a Royal Arch Chapter. We sized it up as accurately as even Comp. Swain could do, and hereby acknowledge that Wisconsin's method of bridging the difficulty is the only just and reasonable one ; but the law is there still, and exists without the qualification applied to it by generous Wisconsin. Now, if every other jurisdiction regarded the situation similarly, there would be nothing further to say, but since it has gone forth that Canada has abolished the Past Master's degree, some of them are putting on new armour plating and providing additional sentries with fixed bayonets.

A phase of the matter which would be ludicrous if its possibilities for unpleasantness were not so glaring, is furnished by the Michigan reviewer, who infers that a Michigan Royal Arch Mason is prevented from visiting a Canadian Chapter, and hints at something very serious as the obstacle. The reading of the law, we opine, will bear revision.

There is much that we would willingly cull from this excellent report for the benefit of our Canadian readers, but the limit is exceeded and we must say "adieu."

J. Thomas Prior, Jun., Dodgeville, Grand High Priest; John W. Laffin, Milwaukee, Grand Secretary.

Conclusion.

As we close our labors the belfry chimes suddenly break the midnight stillness and we realize that the year with its record of pleasure and pains has sunk into the irrecoverable past, and that another period of hopes and aspirations is born.

Farewell, old year! Hail to the new! Thus do we in the Present cast behind us the experience of the Past to indulge in speculations as to the Future. This annual greeting one to another is only a brief, restful halt in life's journey. Our better nature is uppermost when hand clasps hand and the wish is exchanged for

"A HAPPY NEW YEAR."

For our Companions of the Royal Craft, aye, to the uttermost confines of this vast continent, may the year which has just dawned be one of peace and prosperity. In Canada and throughout the British Empire it promises to be eventful. It is just one hundred years since Capitular Masonry was introduced into this fair Province of Ontario, and the occasion will in due time be appropriately celebrated.

A little over a century ago, Prince Frederick, afterwards Duke of Kent, Provincial Grand Master of Lower Canada, was presiding in a Lodge at Quebec, when a brother, in speaking upon a question, addressed

him as "Your Royal Highness," whereupon the R. W. Provincial Grand Master said: "Worshipful brother, there are no Royal Highnesses here, *we are all brethren.*"

Such was the Masonic father of Her Most Gracious Majesty Queen Victoria, the good mother of noble sons and true Masons. This year she will have reigned longer than any previous monarch, and throughout the great Empire her millions of subjects will rejoice and celebrate the event with loyal enthusiasm. No words more fitting could be used at this period than those which R. W. the Rev. David C. Moore addressed to his brethren of Nova Scotia ten years ago, on the occasion of the Queen's jubilee: "A good monarch in no way promotes religion and virtue more effectually than by good example. Those who resist all other motives will have regard to the Royal example—it becomes a sort of living law to the nation. Happy are the people who can look up to the throne—as we can—for a pattern of goodness, and find the first in rank to be the first in virtue. We thank God that the slanders which have been hurled against Masons as disloyal and atheistic are thrown back upon the slanderers by the patronage of our great, glorious and most virtuous Queen and Empress, and by the humble, reverent and heartfelt thanks we now offer for fifty years of righteous rule, to the Great King of Kings and Lord of Lords. We are here to-day most gladly to give thanks according to the rule of our text, not indeed for our 'King,' but for one bearing the gentler title of 'Queen.' For the Queen and Empress, not merely of Britain and Britain's dependencies, but Queen of our affections and Empress of our hearts. May God spare her to us long, and when she leaves the throne she now adorns, may she receive a throne resplendent with perfect brightness from the face of the Great King of Kings and Lord of Lords—JEHOVAH!"

" While Kingdoms rose, and Kingdoms waned,
And Kingdoms ruled no more,
Victoria, our Queen, has reigned
Her loyal people o'er."

Again we are compelled to acknowledge the truly kind and fraternal spirit in which our first, and neces-

sarily crude, effort was received by the Companions of the quill. It was an agreeable incentive to progress, and if there is no visible improvement in the foregoing pages, the fault certainly cannot be attributed to lack of encouragement. We have scanned the proceedings of sixty-three Grand Convocations, have sojourned with all the jurisdictions on the continent, with the exception of our own New Brunswick, and now after a lengthy but exceedingly pleasant journey, we lay aside the pen to seek repose.

“ Now is done thy long day’s work,
Fold thy palms across thy breast,
Fold thine arms, turn to thy rest,
Let them rave.”

PROCEEDINGS REVIEWED.

Alabama	1895	Montana	1895-96
Arizona	1895	Nebraska	1895
Arkansas	1895	Nevada	1894-95-96
California	1896	New Hampshire	1895-96
Colorado	1895	New Jersey	1895-96
Connecticut	1895-96	New York	1896
Delaware	1896	North Carolina	1895-96
District of Columbia ..	1895	North Dakota	1895-96
Florida	1896	Nova Scotia	1895
Georgia	1895-96	Ohio	1895
Illinois	1895	Oregon	1896
Indiana	1895	Pennsylvania	1895
Indian Territory	1895-96	Quebec	1896
Iowa	1895-96	Rhode Island	1895
Kansas	1896	South Carolina	1896
Kentucky	1895	South Dakota	1895-96
Louisiana	1896	Tennessee	1896
Maine	1895	Texas	1895
Maryland	1895	Vermont	1896
Massachusetts	1895	Virginia	1895
Michigan	1896	Washington	1895-96
Minnesota	1895-96	West Virginia	1895
Mississippi	1895-96	Wisconsin	1896
Missouri	1895-96		

Fraternally submitted,

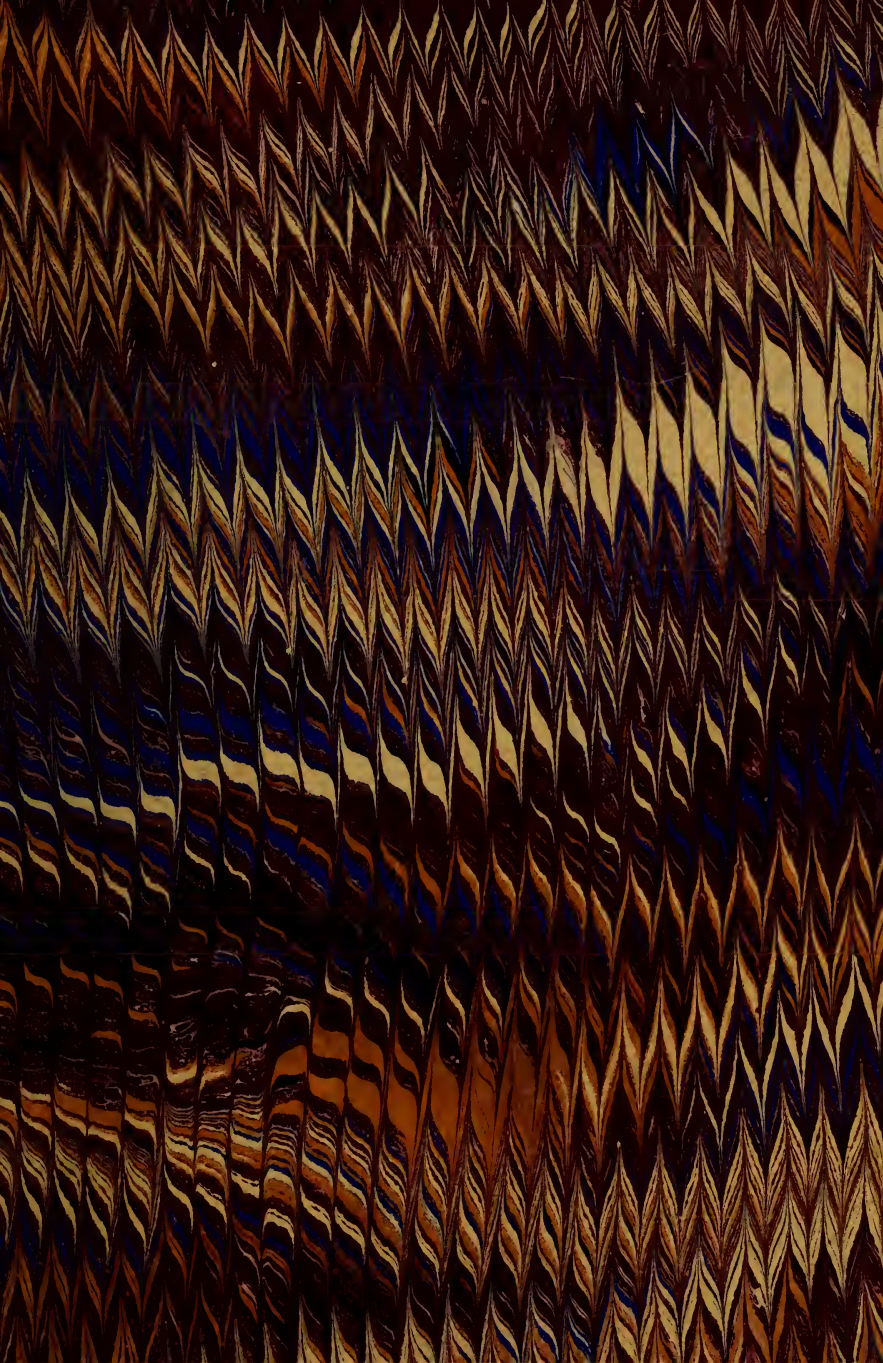
GEORGE J. BENNETT,

Chairman.

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